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THE
HISTORY
AND
ADVENTURES
OF
GODFREY RANGER;
In Three Volumes.

BY D. W. PAYNTER.

Audax omnia perpeti,
Gens humana ruit per vetitum nefas.

Horace.

Non ignara mali, miseris succurrere disco.
Virgil. Æneid 1.

VOL. II.

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THE
HISTORY
OF
GODFREY RANGER.

CHAP. I.

*A Cock and a Bull-Story about motion
and style.*

I do contend, and boldly assert, that there is no *beauty* without *motion*; but it does not lie in the jerking *motion* which un-joints gracefulness, and throws decency off the hinges, and makes the imagination grate, and causes a painful sympathetic grinding in the spectator: but it is in the rotund slipping *motion*, which administers something like oil to the fancy, and, as it were, tickles the ideas into action. Not

in that quick, broken, jumping *motion*, which leaves corrugations on the brain, like ripples of water suddenly halting in their hornpipe-dances at a North-East blast; but in the gentle, regular *motion*, which makes the mind glide smoothly along, like a rivulet on a mild summer-day; or, to give the picture a touch extraordinary, in the solemn and majestic towering of the moon, the *moving* gracefulness of *Virgil's* favourite Goddess, or the flowing *motion* of the *Thames*, that slips from the eye and steals away.

I must confess, I would as lief look at an old wrinkled hag, cut in alabaster, or moulded in daub, as at *Venus de Medicis*. Any *motion* is better than still-life. Even a toad crawling, or a spider spinning its web, is more pleasing than the statue of King Charles on horseback, at Charing-Cross, or the two figures that represent raving and melancholy madness, over the gate of Bedlam, or a dragoon on sentry at the Horse-Guards. But it is the easy,

sweeping *motion* that delights the eye; from it the mind does not receive the idea of painful exertion. The smooth gallop of a race-horse communicates no disagreeable impression of labour: to be sure, the *rough trot* may have its use, in shaking the b—ch, but there is no *beauty* in it.

Look at a vessel under weigh, with her sails flowing and colours flying, powdering her bows with her *motion*: how alert does it make the mind! the spirits involuntarily mount aloft. View her in a calm, rolling upon her keel, with her sails unfurled and flapping, and colours hanging; and the soporific prospect, if you are an old sailor, will make you yawn: the thought of it gives me, who am a fresh-water-sailor, the qualms.

Here, then, we have *the sympathy of motion*: and the man who would (and, I suspect, there are many men in the kingdom who would) rather look at his m——y's picture, than his m——y him-

self, and who would prefer the sight of a roasted *goose* to a living *goose*, ought to be *moved*, or rather *removed*, out of the Parish of Judgment, for an idle, grasping rascal, who sees no *beauty* in any *motion*, but *that* of filling the pocket and the belly. But if I were to run on in this strain much longer, my reader would be apt to think that I had a kind of *whirligig motion* in my brains, which made me talk for talking's sake. The truth is, it is my custom to be somewhat long-winded in my prefaces; that is to say, I commonly make the *head* of a subject too big for the body; a bad fault, mathematically considered, but not incorrigible.

I know not whether a dead and spiritless, or a tumid and flowery style of writing, is the most grating to a true critic: but that the plain and lively style hath the first place in his good graces, there is no room to question. A florid and mettlesome language for the most part pleases; but it is

a wild and fiery pleasure, which parches, and leaves a hanging fever on the mind : whereas, a simple and sprightly language, like the rotund, slipping *motion*, administers something like oil to the fancy ; creates a sober and steady delight ; and leaves the mind in a gentle and temperate glow. Fustian and apish sublimity give the same umbrage and displeasure to the imagination, as the jerking *motion* does to the eye : and the flat, humdrum style is equally as offensive to it, as the drone of a pair of bag-pipes is to an English ear. There are *dull* readers, to be sure, who like a *dull* style ; and there are *prejudiced* Scotchmen who prefer the tuneless humming of that *stupid* instrument, before the swelling harmony of a full *orchestra*.

But I had better not dabble too much in an *art* that is out of my province, lest I hit myself a blow in the face, and thereby give the world an opportunity of grinning at me *with a vengeance*.

It would rejoice me, in a manner beyond the power of an author's *cant* to describe, if the *motion* of my history had not, as far as we have travelled, occasioned any unpleasant feels in, or dislocated any of, the joints of the reader's patience: for, though I have endeavoured to make my *steeds* keep a regular and even hand-gallop, I must acknowledge, they have, in some parts of the way, been somewhat lazy, and fallen into the heavy trot; for which if I were to make an excuse, I would say it was owing to *the badness of the roads*. But, by doing this, I should, in all probability, vex the *paver*, who would, out of spite, impeach his *employer*, and he, in the height of his chagrin, lay the fault on some of his *partners*; and so the whole firm and posse of *Genii* would go to loggerheads. But, to be short, if my good-natured reader be not out of humour already, I will venture to promise him; that we will go *cheek-by-jole* the remainder of the journey. As for the *growling fraternity*,

I care not a straw if they are filled with stitches, and prefer, in their spleen, a thousand bitter complaints against me; for, as *Swift* observes, in his *Tritical Essay*, "They are, at best, but the drones of the learned world, who devour the honey, and will not work themselves; and a writer need no more regard them, than the moon does the barking of a little senseless cur: for, in spite of their terrible roaring, you may, with half an eye, discover the *ass* under the *lion's skin*."

CHAP. II.

A mixture of Staidness and Humour.

THERE cannot, in the opinion of a certain great, though neglected philosopher, be a stronger demonstration of a mean mind, than the pursuit of fame. 'It is frequently sought,' says he, by such trifling means, as would not credit the most frivolous object.' The truth of this, no person, who hath a tolerable knowledge of the world, or, indeed, the least pretensions to common discernment, can fairly disallow. The number of men who might have applied their talents so as to have been of infinite service to the community, but who, in reality, have made themselves famous for works, deeds, and actions of stolidity, is inconceivable. Some, who have had but a plain education, and possess only an ordinary stock of wit, are *resolved* to immortalize their names, by presenting to the world huge volumes of

what they entitle—genuine, theoretical, and learned remarks: some, who have not a whit of either prudence or true bravery, try to enhance their reputations, by kicking up a dust (as they phrase it) among the enemies of their country: others, who are cut out for trade and bustle, endeavour to get the length of the world's foot, by leading a life of indolent and hypocritical piety: and others, who are fit for nothing but cozenage and fin-gering b—s, do their best to make themselves mære in p——t. Thus do men, for the most part, aim at greatness; and suppose, impudently suppose, that their flimsy undertakings will in time purchase them the blooming wreaths of perpetual glory.

Lest it should be thought, that I am one of those short-sighted creatures who expect, by making histories of their youthful transactions and exploits, to get themselves talked about, and set down for devilish clever fellows, it will be highly meet,

necessary, and expedient for me to declare, (and I hope my reader will not be so ill-mannered as to tell me I lie) that when I set about the writing of the first volume of these my memoirs, I neither hankered after *fame* nor *lucre*; but was swayed principally by the thought of notifying my innumerable inconsistencies, in order that those who have a taint of profligacy in their compositions, might take profit, and those who are fond of light reading, reap amusement from them. Such was then, and such is still my design. I had likewise some few fears, that my memory was not so good as it ought to be; on which account, I was determined to put it, by this means, to the test; and, to my unspeakable satisfaction, (for it is a great comfort to have a clear remembrance of past events, I find that I have not, so far at least, any occasion to complain of it. But hold ye! 'tis high time for us to proceed on our journey. My steeds have had bait and rest sufficient; they prance for the whip. Only speak

the word, and we are instantly in motion. Enough, my good reader: I have a pre-science of thy wish. Now for it! I am off!

After I had secretly heaved a thousand fervent sighs, and ejaculated an equal number of wishes for the tenth of October, it at length arrived, with raw nipping breath, and gaily wrapt in a sparkling mantle of hoar-frost. So great a share of my thoughts did the progress I was shortly to go, occupy, that by the time Phœbus had shook the dew from off his radiant locks, I had packed up my all, and had nothing more to do but to bid good b'ye to my worthy old friend. That good creature had given me the two commendatory letters (which I committed to my pocket-book, without so much as looking at their directions) to the lawyer and liquor-merchant, the night before; and had likewise put me in possession of eight guineas, a great deal more than he could afford to part with, to defray the expences of my journey, &c.; so that, as I before said, I had

nothing to do now but to take my leave of him. Nothing did I say? how light are my expressions! Indeed, indeed, I should have been one of the vilest of ingrates, if the idea of parting with the man who had so materially befriended my parents, and who had cherished me, even from the cradle, with all the care and tenderness of a father, had not made my heart yearn.

The eight-o'clock-bell just dropped ringing as Mr. Prosody was giving me the farewell-hug. In what dictionary can I find words that will justly paint the strong marks of kindness and affection which he shewed to me in this short painful moment? He strove hard to suppress the rising emotions of his soul, and to put on a smiling countenance; but the softness of his nature would appear, in spite of his efforts. His utterance, which was broken and disordered, was the first thing that betrayed him. With an ardour and fondness ineffable, he grasped my hand—pressed me to his bosom—bussed me upon

the cheek—and then put his handkerchief over his eyes, in order to conceal the eviction of a weakness which rigid philosophy may condemn, but which those good souls, who will not take upon them the task of fighting against natural feelings, will ever look upon with sympathetic regard. “My dear child, if either of the gentlemen should approve of you, you will not fail to write me immediate word thereon : if not, I enjoin you to return home with all convenient haste, and trust, as I hope you have hitherto done, to the great Creator of all things for the appointment of your station in life,” were the last words that my incomparable guardian spoke.

It will, I imagine, be needless for me to say, that my heart was ready to burst as I took up my bundle and hat to depart. If the reader is not already sensible of the extent of my perturbation, 'tis impossible that I can make him so. Suffice it to say, that when I had walked as

far as the Market-place, my eyes kindly opened their sluices, and out gushed the grievous torrent. I had something else to think about than to hide my sorrow from the crowd with my napkin, so that I not only got a hundred eyes upon me, but had also the mortification to hear myself laughed at. My affliction did not wholly cease, until I had got nearly three miles out of town.

As I was going through the outskirts, I observed, on the reverse side of the street, a great number of blackguard rogues, and impudent jades, standing together in a row, with their backs against a coach-house-door. They were, to all appearance, as merry as people could be, breaking jokes upon each other, and bursting out into loud peals of laughter. One of this idle gang, a little, puny, hump-backed fellow, who seemed to be about forty years of age, and who looked every jot as mad as the wildest shatterpate in Bedlam, seeing, as

I suppose, the wofulness of my countenance, and hearing my heavy sobs, pointed jeeringly towards me with his finger, and bawled out, as hard as his lungs would let him,—“ Look, look !—look at that great snivelling belwether !—Poor child ! who has been abusing it, I wonder ?—Stop a bit, my little darling ! and I’ll buy thee a caky to eaty, and a bottle of what-d’ye-callum oil, to rub thy slapped a— with.” This smart stroke of wit instantly drew from his uncourtly friends, a thundering ha, ha, ha ! which struck no part of me but the drum of my ear, yet that so violently, that I verily thought it would have cracked.

What with the uneasy state of my mind, and the sharpness of the air, I set out at the rate of five miles an hour, and had passed the seventh stone before I discovered that I was going too fast to hold out long. The morning was excessively fine ; indeed, I was never, to the best of my recollection, out in a more charming

one. The sky was a beautiful azure ; and if I would have given all that I stood possessed of to have seen a cloud I could not. The woods all around resounded with the report of guns, and the barking of dogs, which explicitly told me, that the country 'squires were playing the devil with the game. All nature appeared to be in a paroxism of delight. " Ah me !" said I to myself, letting out a long and rueful sigh, " who, on the face of the earth, is half so wretched and unhappy as I am ? Where are all those fine enjoyments and pleasures which my forward fancy told me I should this day be an inheritor of ? What an entrance into the world is this ! I have left a comfortable home, a worthy man, a tender friend, all that is peaceable and good, chiefly to gratify my own unaccountable humour. Unadvised fool !—relenting coward ! Ah, cruel reason ! thou comest now but to mock me. [Here a yoke of oxen, drawing a cart that was heavily laden with lime-stone, passed by me.] Even those

two poor beasts (continued I) seem to smile beneath their weighty burden. I must now fight my own battles: I have not a friend to aid me in either a just or unjust contest; or to say to me, 'I will never desert thee, if thou wilt be true to me.' Alas, whatever distresses and calamities betide me, I cannot complain, nor look for pity, for I shall know that I have brought them all upon myself. Suppose the two persons to whom I am now repairing, and on whom I rest my every hope, should refuse me their services,—what then wilt thou do, poor wretch? Go back to Lincoln, as thou wast ordered? No, that I will never agree to. I have taken too much from thee already, thou best of men! I would sooner beg my bread from door to door, than cut thy generosity to the bone. [Here I put my hand accidentally into the pocket in which my money was.] Eight guineas! Good God, why did not conscience interfere, and tell me, that a far less sum would carry me twice such a journey? Thought-

less lad ! Oh, my parents, what a host of ills has your son, perhaps, to encounter ! The protection of heaven I dare not supplicate : to whom then on earth can I look up for support ?

This last interrogatory had just started in my mind, when I overtook an old lame soldier, who was limping forward as fast as he could, poor fellow, with a large napsack upon his back, a crutch under his right arm, and a thick crabs-ick put through his belt, in the manner of a sword. His asking me, what o'clock it was, put an end to my melancholy reverie. I civilly answered him with "Indeed, good man, I have no watch upon me, but I should imagine, by the sun, that it is about half past ten." "Thankee; thankee kindly, young gentleman," cried he, "I am very much indebted to you. It is a mighty fine day for walking." "That it is, indeed," replied I, without having the least wish to rid myself of his company, by pushing by him. To say the

truth, there was something in his air and voice that pleased me. Though I was but a novice, I had a strong notion, that he had a gem under his thread-bare coat, which many a trim lord could not boast; namely, an honest heart. For these reasons, I say, I slackened my pace, and walked abreast with him. He looked at me, as much as to say, "By your leave, sir, we will march together." "Certainly, poor man," answered I, in my own mind; and so on we went, cheek-by-jole.

"Have you been long a cripple?" said I, viewing his lame leg with an eye of pity. "About three months, sir," replied he, appearing somewhat pleased at the question. He added, that he should have been quite recovered by that time, if he had not been so foolish, whilst he was laid up in the hospital, as to take the advice of one of his fellow-soldiers, who one night persuaded him, that if he would get most damnably fuddled, he would be well and hearty upon his legs the next

morning. "God forgive the trick-playing rogue!" cried he, shaking his head, "he had a mind to send me to my long home before my time." "Cruel wretch!" exclaimed I, "he deserved a thousand lashes for his pains." "Why, certainly," said he, in reply, "it was not doing as he would be done unto. He had like to have disabled me from marching to any place again but the shades below. It was what an Irishman in our regiment used to call joking in earnest. But I wish the poor devil no harm, not I, indeed! I forgive him from the very bottom of my bowels, and may the Lord of heaven do the same. I am but a blunt man, your honour! I hope I do not give offence. But, as I was saying, I have no more malice against the rap who did me that injury, than I have against the lice that crawl in a beggar's head."

"Have you walked a long way this morning?" was the next question I put to him. His answer was, "No, sir, not

such a very long way. You sec, my leg is but weakly at present. If I had been my own man, you understand me, sir? I should have knocked a few more miles on the head by this hour o'day. Let me see! I have made shift to hop from a place—I forget the name of it, but it lies about four miles on t'other side of Lincoln.” “You have done wonders!” cried I; “but I am confident you must feel yourself very much tired.” Middling, middling for that, your honour,” said he, briskly. “Nay, if you are, good man,” cried I, “speak! and I will do my best to help you.” “God reward your charitable soul!” cried the crippled veteran, smiling in gratitude; “I could walk, d’ye see, a dozen miles further, without knocking myself up. But I have not, the Lord be praised for it, above five more to go, and then I shall be with my wife and little ones. Heaven bless them! I can almost fancy I see the poor doves running out of the house to meet me, and trying which can get the first kiss. Oh, sir, (added

he, wiping away, with the cuff of his coat, a big tear that was rolling down his cheek)—oh, sir, how amply is a soldier's labour rewarded, when he goes home, and finds his pretty hen and chickens so loving!"

The poor fellow uttered this in so soft, so melting a tone, that even if I had been in one of my hare-brained humours, it would, I think, have lured a tear from my eye; but as a fresh-healed wound is easily ript open, I gave him a shower of them, as freely as a ploughman eats his dinner.

"Do not let my pitiful jabbering disturb your honour!" cried he, at the sight of the pearly flood that overspread my face; "I did not think I had such an unsoldierlike tongue in my head. But I am, d'ye see, I am—yes, I am—why, what am I? an old woman: Ay, ay; a stupid b—h of an old woman!" He could not speak another syllable. His manly heart

reluctantly submitted to the combined force of joy and grief. He turned aside his head, and cried like a child in the arms.

Before either of us could make a proper use of our tongues again, we had walked upwards of two hundred paces. The old soldier stopped weeping all of a sudden, and recovering his speech, "Pish! whew! be d—n'd! all flash and smoke!" cried he, with a forced asperity of voice, and beating his forehead all the time with his fist; "For shame, you old jackass! I have no patience with you. Go and fight the French, you whimpering booby! An' please you, sir, (turning to me) an' please you, sir, don't you think my brains are turned topsy-turvy?" As I plainly perceived the poor fellow was ready for another conflict with his feelings, I affected not to hear what he asked me, but putting on as composed an air as I could, "Pray, my old friend," said I, "how came you by the hurt in your leg?" "I

will tell your honour," cried he, his face growing a little brighter, "I will tell your honour all about it. I am but a blunderhead at a story thof; but, howsomever, I will give it you in the best way I can." Here he pulled out his tobacco-box, and consoled himself with a *quid*; and after he had taken a little time to recollect himself, he began in the following manner.

"You must know, sir, that on the ninth of last June, our regiment, which lay encamped along the river Humber, near Barton, received information, that a strong body of smugglers were landing a cargo of Holland's gin, a few miles down the river. Our colonel, upon this, (for he knew his duty to his king as well as the best man in the army) ordered a lieutenant with forty men, to go and give the dogs a brush. I happened to be one of this party: so, you mind me, sir, off we marched, and got within musket-shot of the brazen law-breakers, before they dis-

covered who we was. I think there was about eighty of 'em, which your honour knows is twice forty ; but that as not much to do with the main story. They had got, d'ye see, all their hogsheads in four carts, and were moving off with 'em fast enough, but at sight of us, they halted, and drew themselves up in a line. "There, my lads !" says our lieutenant to us, "you see the hell-cats are determined to try what sort of mettle we are made of." "With all our hearts," says we, "they wont get much by that." "No, I'll be d—n'd if they will," says he ; "we'll let 'em know my Lord G—d from Tom Bell. Fight like devils, my hearties !" says he again. "Shew the ragged blackguards what you can do ! You have only to dress their jackets well, and then, if you like, every soul of you may swim in gin."

No one can tell, your honour, what a minute will bring forth. Our poor lieutenant (God rest his soul, and every other honest man's soul that falls in defence of

his country's laws)—our poor lieutenant, I say, had but just spoke the words that I have spoke, when one of the rascally smugglers levelled his musket against him, and brought him to the ground. He died, like a brave man as he was, without so much as saying—oh! You may have a good guess, sir, how we answered this affront. As soon as we got near enough to 'em, to be sure that every bullet we fired, would tell, we let fly at 'em all at once, and down a good many of 'em dropped, as dead as ninepins. Pox on the brimstone knaves! I took as much pleasure, d'ye see, in boxing with them, as I did with the lying Americans." "Then you have been in America?" said I, interrupting him. "Yes, your honour," cried he, modestly, "I fought there under Colonel Tarleton, as brave a man as ever wore a sword. But to go on with my story.

The smugglers returned our fire handsomely enough, and we very soon came up to the teeth of one another. They fought

like madmen, and we, for disciplined men, like a parcel of fools. But for all that, they had no chance with us. They could not, no more than the French, bear the taste of the bayonet, so we dealt with 'em accordingly.

In the hottest part of the skirmish, as I was discharging my piece, d'ye mind me, sir? in the face of a fellow who had got one of our part down on the ground, some sneaking scoundrel or other, belonging to the enemy, comes behind me, and gives me a devil of a knock with an iron lever on the neck. I tumbled flat upon my face: my gun flew out of my hands, I can't tell you where, for I have never clapt eyes on it since. Mayhap, some of the rap-tarries have got it in their roguish hands: if they have, the Lord send it may never do 'em an inch of good: that's all I can say about it. Well, sir, as I told you, I was knocked down upon my face; but thof I was terribly stunned, I soon raised myself upon my knees, and

was just going to get upon my feet, when a broad-sword went gash into my right shoulder ; so down I fell again. I thought, your honour, I was killed, sure enough ; but a hogshead of gin that tumbled off one of the carts on my left foot, told me I was as much alive as any man. This last blow struck me so sick, that I saw neither end or tail of the battle. However, I was told, in a day or two after, that the smugglers were at last forced to run for it. About twenty of 'em (for all the rest were either killed, taken, or badly wounded) got safe and sound a-board their smack, and put to sea. The brave lieutenant was the only one, d'ye see, that was killed on our side. We had fifteen wounded, to be sure ; I mean myself and fourteen others : but that was only a fleabite, your honour.

All the prisoners, and those that were not able to walk, I among the number, were put into the four carts, right upon the top of the gin casks. The rest of our

party, who, you may be sure, did not forget the promise of our dead lieutenant, tapped one of the hogsheads, and before we got back to the regiment, they were all, poor lads, as drunk as pipers.

I have told you, sir, what a trick the rogue that came to see me in the hospital played me, for an old foolish dunce as I was. But, howsomever, I have got over it all, thank God. The day before yesterday, I begged a six weeks'-furlough from my captain, to go home, and was just thinking what happy hours I should spend there, when your honour overtook me."

By the time that I had expressed my acknowledgments to him, for having so amply satisfied my enquiries, we came to a white public-house, which we entered, purposely to rest ourselves.

CHAP. III.

Treating of what happened at the Public-house.

BY the way, this country-inn, which bore the sign of the blue-parrot, had not only good accommodations for travellers, but also an excellent bowling-green, which was well frequented by those gentlemen who had estates or houses in the neighbourhood. The landlord, who had formerly been butler to a person of some distinction, had almost tipped his senses away. I believe it was as great a rarity to see him sober, as it is to hear a word of honest religion fall from the mouth of a methodist-parson. His wife, a little fat brisk handy woman, was constantly upon her legs, either drudging in the kitchen, or stirring about in the bar: and if her husband was mute, she was determined not to hurt the *credit* of her sign, by letting her tongue lie still. She kept a

remarkably clean house, and was particularly civil and attentive to her customers.

No sooner had I and my lame companion seated ourselves by the kitchen-fire, than this bustling hostess came nimbly up to us, and with an urbanity peculiar to herself, desired to know what we would please to have. "How's your ale, mistress?" cried the old soldier. "Why, honest man," answered she, "to say my ale is good, would be telling an arrant false-wood; but I can ricommend my porter to you, it is very nice, indeed. We have got some of the most capitalest cider too, that ever was tipped over a tongue." "Which will your honour take?" cried my cripple, addressing himself to me, "cider or porter?" I answered, I did not care which. "You have no 'cajon, young gentleman, to be bashfuld;" cried the buxom landlady; "any thing in this house is at your sarvice, and at every other body's sarvice that can pay for't."

"Ay, ay, we know that," said the old soldier, winking his eye at me; "so bring us, if you please, good mistress, a bottle of your whistle-belly." "The divil sink you!" retorted she, shaking her head at him, in a good-humoured manner, "your soldiers is always so full of your jokes, there's no coming near you. Cider, you mean, I s'pose?" He answered her with a nod. "You shall have it directly," cried she; "and if it doesn't do both your hearts good, I'll never own my name again. More charminger stuff, tho' I says it that shouldn't say it, never went down king George's throat."

The good woman was so expeditious, that the cider appeared on the table before us in a diadrom; and I must confess, I think she had not bestowed a tittle more praise upon it, than what was its due. We were both very thirsty with walking, so that we tasted the goodness of it in a double degree. "Well," cried my old friend, smacking his lips, "I have drank

good cider many a time, but never, either before or since my christening-day, wet my mouth with any like this." "Yes, yes," cried the landlady with a good deal of vivacity, "I know'd you would like it, master! I never cracks o' my goods without reasin. If it is not fit for the best noblemand in the land, I don't know what is." "As to its being fit and fit," returned he, "is a matter of no more consequence than that! (snapping his fingers.) A poor man, d'ye see, has a taste, as well as a rich man; and if he cannot tell what is good, and what is bad, he deserves to be fumigated with brimstone." "Ay, and so he does," cried she, "and well fumbligated too."

Whilst we were finishing the second bottle, a smart wench came frisking into the kitchen, and ran straight to the landlady, who was busily skewering up a couple of ducks at the dresser. "Please, mother," said she, "that gentlemand in the travellers'-room, wants to know, what

time the coach will be here?" "About half past twelve, child;" answered she; "you know'd that as well as me."

"Pray, ma'am," cried I, after the girl had left the kitchen, "where does the coach you have been speaking about, run to?" "Oh, sur!" replied she, with a look full of the surprising, "it goes a *circumbendibus*: I can hardly tell you where. It starts at York, and goes through Lincoln, Peterborough, Coventry, Litchfield, Chester, Manchester, and then at after to York again." "Do you know," said I, "whether it goes near Northampton?" "I can't 'xactly tell you that," cried she, "but I'll acquire about it for you." She immediately went into the bar, where her good husband was sat upon a liquor-keg, in a state of the most stupid intoxication. "Humphrey!" cried she, shaking him by the shoulder; Humphrey, I say! Does thee hear me, love? Can thee tell me, my good lad, whether the York-coach goes any where near Northambton?"

The poor fellow was quite done over: he threw up a pair of dead eyes at her, and sunk into the same stupor from which she had but just roused him. "God bless me," continued she, giving him another good shake, "what made thee get so tipsy this morning? Why doesn't thee tell me what I asks thee? Does the York-coach, I say, go any where near Northambton?" My sottish host, raising up his head, made shift to pronounce the interjection pish! and instantly relapsed again.

"Oh that men should put an enemy into their mouths to steal away their brains."

"I might as well talk to the cat," cried the pains-taking landlady, coming back to us in the kitchen, "he's quite unsensible. Dear heart alive! if he goes on in this manner, we shall be totedly ruinated." She here shouted a lad to her, who was cleaning a saddle in the yard, and asked him the same question as she had fruitlessly put to her heavy-brained spouse. "Why, mistress," answered the lad, "the York-

coach, you know, wags plump through Northampton." "Does it, indeed?" cried I, not a little pleased with this information, "I am glad to hear that." "Your honour, I suppose," said the old invalid, very gravely, "is bound for that place?" "Yes," replied I, venting a profound sigh; "I hope, when I get there, to be at my journey's end."

The bottle being out, my veteran companion began to unbutton his breeches' pocket, and desired to know, how much the reckoning came to. "No, my good friend!" said I, withholding his hand, "You shall not pay a single farthing, so keep your money where it is." "I'll be d—n'd if I don't tho'!" cried he, earnestly. "On my soul, you shall not!" returned I; "if you attempt to do any such thing, take my word for it, we shall fall out." "No, don't let him, sur!" cried the landlady with officious kindness; "the poor man has 'nough to do with his money, I'll be sworn." "Well, well," cried he,

in a submissive tone, "have it as you will. Two against one is enough to kill a man, as the saying is. Thof I would as lief put down my dust as let it alone, d'ye see, I wont be so unmannerly as to brangle or jaw about it again. I would not offend your honour, (added he, shaking me by the hand) no, blow off my head if I would, for a major's pay." "Bravely spoken!" cried my landlady, clapping her hands. "You desaves to be an offi-cert, just for that saying. If the king's most exsullent majersty would be pleased to kick a parcel o' little swaggering smock-faced jackanapes' out o' th' army; and put such blusterous old lads as you i' their room, it wouldn't be amiss, I thinks. A fig for 'em, and their buckram-strut too! 'Ods heart, I'd sooner see a man without a sword and red jacket, than a sword and red jacket without a *man*!"

The old soldier could not help smiling at this shrewd sentiment, and said, "Do not be too hard upon the young-gentle-

men, mistress ! Some of 'em don't want for spirit, I can tell you ; and shew in the field as much prudence, without which a soldier is not worth two-pence, as older heads." " Don't tell me o' their spirit and prudence," cried she, with great warmth : " they can eat beef, drink wine, wench, and swear, wi' a spirit, as you call it ; but rot me, if I'd be behind *some of 'em*, when they be marching 'gainst a cannon."

The two bottles of cider, which came to eighteen-pence, being settled for, the old man got up from his chair, and putting his crutch under his arm, asked me, if I did not intend waiting for the coach ? I replied in the affirmative. " If your honour," said he, drawing the thick crabstick from his belt, and presenting me with it ; " if your honour will accept this old friend and companion of mine, as a bit of a remembrance, I shall be as much pleased, d'ye see, as if government had rigged me with new regimentals. It has

been a faithful servant to me for more than thirty years: saved my life twice, and my bones above a dozen times. Take it, sir! for I am sure you will be a kind master to it. It will be true to you for its old owner's sake; and if ever it should do you a good turn, think, sir—I say, think, that he who gave it to you, would have served you just as much. Fare thee well, my old lad! (continued he, putting it into my hand) Good b'ye my staunch old prop! Fight for him as thou hast always done for me, and then, my brave boy, thou wilt deserve a double varnish!" I will not have your stick, my good friend," said I, "but on two conditions." "I am sorry to hear that, your honour," cried he, with a look of extreme disappointment; "but what may they be, an't please you?" "Why, the first is," answered I, "that you take that (sliding a guinea into his hand) to your good wife; and the second, that you purchase with this, (giving him an additional crown) a few cakes for your poor little children."

“Almighty God!” ejaculated the old man, clasping his hands, and throwing his eyes up towards heaven: “Oh my blessed Saviour! what have I done, poor lousy reptile that I am, to deserve all this kindness? Ah, your honour! I cannot think of taking it from you.” I answered him only with a look, which simply declared to him, that if he offered to return the money, I should indubitably throw down the stick; he, therefore, put it, though visibly against his will, into his pocket, and seizing hold of my hand, cried out, in the ferventest manner conceivable, “May heaven’s best reward fall to your lot, young gentleman! Wherever you go, remember, that the blessings and well-wishes of an old worn-out soldier and his family always follow you.” So saying, he touched his hat in the military style, and took his leave of me.

As he was passing by the bar-window, the humane landlady, who had listened all the while to our discourse, put

her head through, and clapping him on the shoulder, "Here, my good man," said she, "put this into your pocket! it will do for you to bite at on the road."

It was a good large luncheon of cheese and bread, for which the poor fellow returned her a thousand thanks, and then limped out of the house. "God help him!" cried my hostess, wiping her eyes with her apron; "while we be sitting comfitably by our fire-sides, such noblified fellows as him is fighting our battles. Oh dear, oh dear! we can never do too much for 'em."

The appearance and demeanour of this meritorious veteran, took such strong hold of my mind, that I repeated several times to myself, the four following lines from Broome's Poverty and Poetry:

— the brave soldier in the wars,
Gets empty praise, and aching scars;
Is paid with fame and wooden legs,
And starv'd, the glorious vagrant begs.

CHAP. IV.

*Telling what further occurred at the
Blue Parrot.*

IN a few minutes after the old soldier had left me, I was shewn into the travellers'-room, near the fire of which was sat a middle-aged gentleman in black, with a glass of wine and water before him, and a news-paper in his hand. His hair, of which he had many a lock more than the fashion allowed, was sufficiently perfumed and trimmed, and powdered as white as a sheet. His eyes were of a lively blue colour, and bating a scorbutic humour that covered his face, he had what we may call a good look. Indeed, on the whole, he appeared to be an affable sort of a person.

I took my seat close to the door; but as soon as the powdered gentleman observed me, he laid down the paper, and

politely begged, that I would draw near the fire, declaring, at the same time, that he had never known such a cold-tenth of October in the whole course of his life. As I felt, that what he said, could, by no means, be gainsaid, I did not need a second invitation, but carried my chair anon to the very edge of the hearth.

After the customary formalities were expended, we fell headlong into familiar discourse. "It is astonishing to me," said he, rather conceitedly, "that the roads all over England are so abominably neglected. Such heaps of gravel, such vile holes, such wretched pavements, and such monstrous ups and downs, surely were never seen in any country but this. God bless me! 'tis excessively dangerous for persons on horseback to travel upon them in the night-time. By the bye, I had like to have dislocated my shoulder, about a week ago, by a fall from my mare, owing, sir, to an infernal breach in the road. If I had been so unlucky, I certainly should

have brought an action against the surveyors; and betwixt you and I, sir, I should have recovered very heavy damages. They deserve trouncing, curse me if they don't, as much as a thief does a halter."

"The road, sir, from Lincoln to this place," cried I, "is not to be found fault with, I am sure." "That may be, that may be, sir," replied he; I don't say a word to the contrary. But if you had travelled as much as I have, you, perhaps, would have cause to d—n the slovenly rascals with all your might, and with all your soul. The public, sir, are most cruelly imposed upon: the money, sir, that is exacted from them, for the reparation of the highways, is purloined, sir: the devil only knows what becomes of it, or where it goes to. I am no politician, sir, but I know that the civil power is most scandalously abused. What think you, sir?" Indeed, sir," answered I, "I am quite unexperienced in matters of that

kind, therefore, cannot, with any propriety, form an opinion." "If that's the case, sir," said he, with an air that intimated superiority, "we may as well change the subject: but, in the first place, I will call for another glass of negus, and you had better order one at the same time, for, I assure you, sir, you cannot take a beverage that will so soon keep the frosty air off your stomach."

He here pulled the bell, the tongue of which immediately brought the landlady's airy daughter into the room. "Did you ring, gentlemend?" said she. "Yes, my little angel!" cried the scented beau, flying at the girl, and taking an unwarrantable freedom with her lips, "we rang to a certainty; but if I tell you what we want, wont you forget before you reach the bar?" "No, indeed, sir," cried she, dexterously delivering herself from his embrace, just as he was about to repeat his amourous trespass. "Well then, my pretty love," said he, looking somewhat

disappointed, "you may fill my glass again with negus, and bring this young gentleman another of the same sort."

When the girl had left the room, to fulfil the order she had received, the fribbish hero placed himself on his chair again, and setting the frill of his shirt, which was much crumpled, to rights, "The little b—ch," cried he, "has been fluttering about me for more than two hours, therefore was resolved, sir, to give her a d—n'd good clipping, in order to get shut of her." He added, with another great oath, that when she brought in the wine and water, he should assuredly bestow a few more smacks upon her, instead of hush-money: but the landlady herself happened to serve us with it, so my buck was completely balked.

"We were speaking about the badness of the roads, I think, sir?" cried he, resuming the conversation. Yes,—the roads,—I am right!—the roads,—ha!—God

bless me!—if you once saw the roads in France, sir, you would never afterwards travel upon our English ones but with ten thousand fears in your heart, and as many curses in your mouth. They are, comparatively speaking, sir, as straight as an arrow, and as smooth as glass. Not a break to be found there; no, egad! But, in fact, 'tis not to be wondered at; for the country itself is heaven upon earth. Talk of England! Lord have mercy! 'tisn't fit to be mentioned on the same day. A dog-hole of a place, sir, a mere jakes! a bloated calf covered with leeches, sir: nothing more or less, I can assure you."

"Come, come, sir," cried I, betwixt joke and earnest, for I could not bear to hear the soil in which I had taken root, so scandalously degraded, "though I know but little of my native country, I am persuaded it is not one hundredth part so bad as you make it." "Why, sir," cried he, reddening like fire at this reproof, "opi-

nions, you know, are free: every man has a right to enjoy his own sentiments." "True, sir," returned I, "but not to publish them." "Ha, ha, ha! an excellent retort!" cried he. "Lend me your hand, sir! Egad, you have given me *quantum sufficit*! I am an odd kind of a fish, sir! you must excuse me: mine are words without meaning, sir! I can't, for my blood, help railing. Because my mother grumbled hard when I was a getting, my father swore the child would either be a shrew or a cynic. He was a whimsical old dog, sure enough! A devilish queer bitch, indeed! ha, ha, ha! My service to you, sir!"

The manner in which these expressions were uttered, together with the variety of contortions which the speaker's visage went through, had such an effect upon me, that, though I did what I could to preserve my gravity, I first tittered, and then burst out into a loud laugh. The finical gentleman stared at me, as much

as to say, "Do you laugh heartily, sir ? or by way of derision ?" He surlily thrust out his lips, and his eyebrows, which were uncommonly black and bushy, acted in conjunction with them. But, finding that pouts and frowns had not sufficient power to check my risibility, the sun-shine of good humour reappeared in his face. He took out his pocket-handkerchief, blew his nose, and joined me with a peal that shook the whole building.

"God bless me!" cried he, as soon as our merriment had spent itself, "I don't think I ever laughed so soundly in my life before. Well, 'tis no use fretting and fuming : for any thing I know, it is as well to be jolly as sad. Am not one of your crying persons, must acknowledge : like a good joke, sir,—ay, and a pretty wench too ; not ashamed to own it, sir ! no, d—n me !—I am not in the habit of gambling, sir, (continued he, varying the tone of his voice) but, if you like, I will toss you up who pays for both glasses."

I readily enough answered, "With all my heart." For, to tell thee the open truth, reader, the wine and water, together with the cider I had drank with the crippled martialist, had got into my head, and rocked my sorrows fast asleep.

"Now, sir," cried he, flinging a half-penny upon the table, and covering it with his hand," be kind enough to speak. Come, do not hesitate! What will you have?" I directly answered, "Head!" "It probably may be head," cried he; "No—egad, sir, (exposing the halfpenny) you have lost; 'tis tail. Britannia for ever, huzza! as the song runs."

I immediately took out all the money I had, and, braggadochio like, spread it upon my hand. "Let me know your demand, sir," said I, rather arrogantly, "and I will instantly satisfy it." "Psha, my dear sir!" cried he, looking wistfully at my cash, "'tis only a piece of nonsense of mine. Put up your money, I beseech

you! I am no gamester, sir; but if I were to suffer you to bleed, as the saying is, you certainly would have sufficient cause to think me one." "By no means, sir," said I, in reply; "you have won fairly and honourably. Besides, 'tis but a trifle." "That is very true, sir," cried he, "but, at the same time, it is too much to obtain in so light a manner; therefore, you must excuse me, if I say, I'll be d—n'd if I take it. No, no, let us be honest if we die poor. Come, sir, I have the honour to drink your very good health."

About this time, the York-coach arrived; and in a few minutes, all the inside passengers came into the travellers'-room. A handsome young lady in weeds made her appearance first, and was succeeded by an old captain in the navy, with a fine looking woman hanging on his arm. She was dressed in a *pelisse* of real leopard-skin, trimmed with rich white fur. Her waist was encircled with a beautiful gold belt; and from the left side of her white

beaver-hat, which was turned up in front, hung a large ostrich-feather. Her form was supremely elegant, and she had a face lovely as *Arethusa's*, in which simplicity and lasciviousness alternately sported.

The next that entered was an emaciated gentleman, carefully wrapped in a plaid-roquelaure: and after him followed a blooming damsel, who, I ween, was not a great way off fourscore.

Instinct led all of them to the fire. My powdered spark gave up his seat to the lady in mourning, and I surrendered mine to the pretty leopard. As for the captain, the spare gentleman, and the old woman, we did not trouble our heads at all about them, but left them to shift for themselves.

" 'Tis a d—n'd pinching day!" cried the seafaring gentleman, stirring up the fire: "I believe, by my snout, 'twould bite the hottest imp in h-ll!" "Marry .

come up!" piped the old lady, shuffling on her chair; "if you men complain, what must we poor women do? I am sure we are more susceptible of cold than you."

"I cannot agree with you in that, madam," said the sick gentleman, in a feeble voice; "for I am almost certain there is not a female upon earth that catches cold so soon as I do." "As you do?" echoed she, provoked at being contradicted. "Why, ay, that may be true enough: some folks are but half men." This was a home blow. The two youthful ladies fairly blushed for her: the captain muttered "You be d—n'd!" and the pale gentleman, at whose lean carcass it was aimed, hung down his head.

"I protest," cried the beautiful *wild beast*, in a musical accent; "I protest, I never travelled more uncomfortably than I have done this morning, in my life." "The broken pane in the coach-window was extremely disagreeable," cried the pretty widow. "I grant you it was,"

replied the lady in the hairy garment ;
“ but the continual humming of that little
peevish wasp was really intolerable.”
“ There, by G— !” cried the captain, in
a voice of thunder, though with great
simplicity ; “ that’s a broadside for some-
body !”

The spruce hero and I laughed aloud,
the two ladies giggled, the gaunt gentle-
man, maugre his chagrin, simpered, and
the old beldam, who did not seem to hear,
or at least comprehend, what the captain
and his fair companion said, looked first
at one, and then at another, as much as
to say, “ What do you find to laugh at,
you fools ?”

Further chat was, for the present, sus-
pended, by the landlady’s opening the
room-door, and crying out, that dinner
was on table. “ This way, ladies and
gentlemen !” said she, conducting all of
us into a neat parlour : “ this way, an’t
please you. You must ’scuse all disfects.

We are very busy at prisint. You must know, good gentlefolks, I parted wi' my sarvant-wench, yesterday, so I has got all the work to do myself. I must tell you besides——” “Avast!” hollowed the captain, interrupting her, or she perhaps would have favoured us with one of her longest and most eloquent orations; “Avast, I say! Keep off the shoals, good woman, and cast your tongue’s anchor, or, by G—, you will run foul of yourself!”

A cold sirloin of beef, a couple of smoking ducks, potatoes and cabbage, and a large rice-pudding, constituted the dinner. We all sat down indiscriminately; and laying aside the ceremony which thankful people always make use of, before they put a morsel of any thing into their mouths, began to do business with knife and fork outright.

The weather-beaten mariner had the management of the beef, and the pow-

dered gentleman began to cut up the ducks ; but finding that he could not disjoint them handsomely, owing to the smallness of the dish, he put one of them upon a plate, which he placed before him, and fell to work afresh. The old captain, who was, like all other sailors, blunt, and totally unacquainted with the world, perceiving this manœuvre, instantly left off cutting the beef, started upon his feet, and reaching over the table with the big carving-fork, stuck it, without a word of preface, up to the haft in the duck which the beauish gentleman was engaged with. "D—n my body !" vociferated he, his eyes blazing with rage, "this is a joke, with all my heart ! Would you take a whole duck to your own trencher, you greedy lubber ? Let go ! or black me with coward's soot, if I don't board you, and spoil your top-armings for you !"

"La, my dear !" cried the lady in the *pelisse*, pulling the captain back upon his chair, "what, in the name of wonder,

are you about ? The gentleman is only cutting up the bird." " Whuh, d—n my eyes ! why didn't he say so then ?" cried he, wiping the foam from his mouth with a corner of the table-cloth. " Indeed, captain," said she, " you ought to beg his pardon." " Humph, and so I would," replied he, " if it was not so d—n'd womanish !" " Oh, I am sure the gentleman will think no more of it !" cried the lady in mourning. I fully expected, that the next who spoke, would be the old fashioned dame ; but I was, for once, mistaken, for she sat primly with her hands before her, and was, to give her her due, as quiet as a mouse.

My buck, who was far worse frightened than offended, sat trembling like a half-drowned dog ; and although the two youthful beauties exercised their wit and vivacity during dinner, I did not so much as once see him smile. In truth, he was completely crest-fallen. The captain, however, when the cloth was removed,

generously called for a swinging bowl of *grog*, which apparently brought about a peace.

CHAP. V.

Brimful of brisk Adventures, some of which the Reader will most likely say are overcharged.

THE landlady coming into the room, to let us know that the horses were in the coach, I and the foppish gentleman went directly out to the driver, and compounded with him for seats. "Pray, my good fellow," said my buck to him in a whispering voice, "can you tell me who that vile boor is you have brought along with you?" "Boor, sir?" echoed the man, with a stupid stare. "Yes, that black-guard seaman," cried he. "Oh, oh, you mean the captain, I suppose, sir?" shouted the coachman. "I do," cried the beau; "but speak in a lower key, you d—n'd dog, or we shall be having him about our ears. Can you tell me his name?" "Ay, that I can, sir," cried the fellow, with a roguish grin upon his face; "and some-

thing to boot, if you like to hear it. His name, sir, is Fake; and that fine-dressed piece o'goods that's with him—" "What of her?" cried my spark, hastily. "Why, sir," said he, thrusting his tongue into his cheek, "she's his w—e, but passes for his wife! 'Oons, I could tell you a bit of a tale about 'em that would make you laugh your sides sore!" "Egad, I have heard enough already!" cried the powdered gentleman, turning upon his heel, with a countenance full of malicious indignation. "Is it possible that he can have occasion for a mistress, an abominable old Priapus?"

Having paid my shot, and lent my buck a guinea, because he had no *loose change*, to pay his with, I and the rest of the company entered the coach. I placed myself, *unconsciously*, between the two fair ones, and off we rolled.

We had moved over a good space of ground, before a single syllable was ut-

tered. The pretty widow broke silence first, with an ingenious remark on the beauty of the day. Mrs. Fake, for so I shall henceforth call the elegant leopard, made a no less witty reply ; and the conversation soon took a general turn.

“ Don’t you perceive, ladies,” said the slim gentleman, throwing open his roquelaure, “ how surprisingly the sun has mellowed the air ?” “ There is a prodigious alteration in it, indeed, sir,” replied the widow ; “ but, I must own, it is far from being mellowed.” “ Begging your pardon, ma’am,” cried Mrs. Fake, shewing a set of as pretty white teeth as one could wish to see, “ I cannot but say, that I agree in opinion with the gentleman. It is now, to my thinking at least, quite warm enough.” “ You must excuse me, captain,” cried my buck, with strained civility, “ if I do not side with your wife. I think the air is equally as sharp now, as it was in the morning.” “ Spike my mouth,” cried Fake, shrugging his shoul-

ders, "if I don't think you're about the mark, ship-mate! 'Tis d—n'd biting still." "There, my dear ma'am!" cried the young widow, in a sprightly manner; "the majority's against you." "At present, I allow it is," answered Mrs. Fake, with equal vivacity; "but another voice, I think, will put me on a par with you. Come, sir! (added she, clapping me familiarly on the knee) will not you support me?" "O, now that is very unfair of you, madam!" cried the lady in mourning; "I vow, you shall not ask him any such questions. I hope, sir, (looking askint at me) your opinion will be free from partiality.

Contrary to truth and my own feelings, though not against my will, I gave my vote, in spite of the other lady's admonition, to Mrs. Fake. To say the truth, she was by far the handsomest woman of the two; and I must acknowledge to thee, reader, that if a fine woman was condescending enough to ask a favour of me,

I could as soon have lifted my hand against her, as refused to grant it; that is, if it lay in my power. Such was my weakness, of which many and many an instance will, in the course of these sheets, be shewn.

“Thank you, thank you, my dear sir!” cried Mrs. Fake, with an air of exultance, “the cause will presently be our own.” “How is it to be determined?” cried the widow, smiling significantly at her opposer; “an umpire, I apprehend, will be necessary.” “Undoubtedly,” answered Mrs. Fake, returning her smile; “an arbitrator must be procured somehow. I believe ma’am, (continued she, addressing herself to the old lady) we shall be obliged to have recourse to you.” “Marry come up, forsooth!” cried the beldam, snappishly; “’tis fetch me, bring me, these that know my fashions!” “Why, certainly, ma’am,” said the widow, “’twill be no great trouble for you to say, whether you think the air has undergone a change

or not." "The air has undergone a change or not?" echoed the old woman. "What a fuss you make about the air—and the air! I wish you would not plague me with your disputes. The air is, and has been all day, warm enough for any person." "Not for any person, my good lady," cried Mrs. Fake, returning pretty keenly upon her; "but for that person whose blood is already frozen with age and ill-humours, I grant you, it is." "Heaven has given me patience to endure insults," cried the old lady, taking Mrs. Fake's retort exactly as it was meant, "or else I should be apt to tear your eyes out, you impudent woman you! This is the fruits of demeaning one's-self! This comes of travelling in company with a parcel of upstart shabrags! Wise is the old saying, that too much familiarity breeds contempt. Lack-a-daisy, lack-a-daisy! what will this world come to?" "I can't tell you what it will come to," cried the lady in weeds, with cutting poignancy, "but I can tell you what it would be, if

we were all such petulant and unsocial beings as you are ;—a putrid mass of misery and discontent.”

The old woman was so badly stung with this taunt, that she hung down her head and made not the least reply. “Victoria!” cried Mrs. Fake: my buck and the lank gentleman echoed her. I spoke not a word either *pro* or *con* ; and for the captain, he did not care to meddle:—no; he was above speaking in such a petticoat-affair:—above did I say? I meant past; for, verily, reader, he had fallen into a sound sleep, and heard just as much of what was said, as the Emperor of Russia did. He began, in a little time, to puff and snore so loudly, that, what with his noise and that of the coach, it was totally impossible to speak so as to be heard, without the hazard of bursting a blood-vessel. Mrs. Fake and the other young lady, ’tis true, did their best to tongue it on; but their soft voices were completely drowned. The powdered hero and the

gentleman in the roquelo, strained till they were black in the face, but could not, for their lives, make themselves understood ; so the conversation was necessarily dropped.

Whatever dislike we had to the captain's music, not one of us durst offer to awake him ; even Mrs. Fake herself would not venture to do it. Indeed, I do not know but it was better to be pestered with his snoring, than run the risk of having our ears assaulted with a formidable troop of oaths.

In this unpleasant manner did we ride for upwards of an hour, when we were suddenly met by a gentleman's chaise, which was going at the furious rate of twelve miles an hour. Owing to the inadvertency of the drivers, the wheels of both carriages struck violently together, and got entangled.

A person with the loudest voice imaginable, must, I believe, have roared a good while, before he could have roused captain Fake ; but, on the contrary, the shock which our coach received from the other's running against it, awoke him in an instant.

" Yoop-a-hoo !" cried he, staring wildly about him ; " Tack about, ye sleepy pimps, and bear off from land! D—n ye, for a pack of lazy porpoises, what are you about? She's a-ground, by G—!" " You awkward scoundrel!" cried the gentleman in the chaise, to his postillion, " couldn't you piss by this infamous wagon, without blundering so intilerably?"

The fellow made his own case good readily enough, and laid the whole fault on the man that drove us.

" Soho!" hollowed Fake, looking, without ceremony, into the gentleman's carriage ; " Soho, there! What ship, my

hearty?" "What means the min?" cried the gentleman, effeminately: "Begone, wretched beast! or the nauseous steam from the pores of thy skin will tirm the coats of my stimach."

Mrs. Fake, who was well acquainted with the captain's irascible temper, took hold of him by the lap of his coat, for fear he should attempt to reprove the incivility of the gentleman-coxcomb with his fist. But she had no occasion to do any such thing; for so mincingly did this conceited personage speak, that what he said was dög-Latin, or pedlars'-French, to the blunt tarpawling.

"The fellow might have been mad," cried our coachman; "to drive at such a devilish rate!" "What's that you say?" shouted the postillion. "Have you the d—n'd impudence to say, that all this blunderation and uproar is through me?" "Yes, I'll be cursed if it isn't!" bawled our driver; "and that's flat!" "You

are a dirty fibbing son of a b—ch then !” cried the postillion, vehemently. “ You know very well you did this job yourself ; so you had better say no more about it : for any one knows you are the most clumsiest fellow that ever handled a whip !” “ You lie, you white-livered herring !” vociferated captain Fake, flying, though not without treading upon all our toes, to the window on the opposite side of the coach, and putting the better half of his body through ; “ You tell a d—n’d lie ! We’ll sail you, for a groat, any day in the week, and let you have the weather-gage. What’s more, you lousy swabber ! I don’t care a catharping if h—ll itself new-rigs your iron-sick hull, and be d—n’d t’ye !”

Here a servant in livery, belonging to the gentleman, or rather to the *lady*, came riding up to the window through which the captain was leaning. “ Good mister showman,” said he, with the most perfect plebeian insolence ; “ master desires that

you and all your motley crew will be kind enough to turn out of the coach, that we may get loose from you." "D—n your master, for a lanthorn-jawed thief!" cried Fake, in a tempestuous manner; "we wont go ashore for him, or any such a French-mummy: so sheer off, without giving us any more of your jaw!" "Come, come, mister mountebank-doctor!" cried this barefaced bully, with increasing impudence; "you had better step out quietly, or, mayhap, you will get that which you haven't got." "No slack, b—st ye!" exclaimed the captain, in a tremendous tone; "for if I come along side of you, I'll give you a wipe that will drive you overboard before you can shout Nebuchadnezzar!" "You durst as soon eat your head, mister Punch!" cried the servant, riding nearer to the coach-window, and putting his arms a-kimbo. "You think to frighten folks with your big rough voice, do you? But stop a bit, mister conjurationer! We are all old fish in these here parts, and a'n't to be caught

with any such bait. Hang my buttons, if I have not a good mind to pull you out of the coach by the nose, and lace you with my whip, till you cry ten thousand murders !”

This was too gross an affront for a man of the most patient nature to put up with ; but to a red-hot sailor, (such a one as captain Fake was) a sailor who feared not to meet the devil himself, to him, I say, it was, as may reasonably be supposed, a hundred times worse than a stab with a sword. So great was his fury, that every drop of blood in his body appeared to have collected in his face ; and his eyes, which were naturally of a fiery hue, were ready to start out of their sockets. He grasped hold of his hanger, but his passion, providentially, hindered him from drawing it from the sheath. Mrs. Fake and all of us did our utmost to restrain him ; but we might as well, that is, with equal probability of success, have attempted to stem the current of the Gulph of

Mexico. In truth, he was a perfect madman: but not being able, as I have just observed, to unsheath his sword, he drew his head into the coach, most likely to look for something that would suit his purpose. The very first thing that caught his eye, was my stout crabstick, which, without asking permission, he immediately seized, and turning to the window again, let drive such a furious blow at Sir Hector's pate, as forced him to quit his saddle in a twinkling. "Oh, save me! save me!" cried he, as he was tumbling from the horse; "For the love of G—, save me!" "Drown, and be d—n'd, you foul-mouthed blubber!" exclaimed the exasperated captain with a fierce grin; "and may your sneaking ghost have a quick passage to Cape H—ll. Yoh-heave-oh, there!" (continued he, shouting to the man that drove us) port the helm, my boy, and let fly the sheet! D'ye hear me? I say, let fly the sheet!

The coachman, who was a sheer rogue,

seemed to understand him perfectly; for he instantly began to lay on the horses with such good-will, that they pulled forward with all their might, and in a few seconds tore one of the wheels of the chaise off; so our coach presently got free. The outside passengers gave three hearty cheers, by way of triumph; and the fellow, without making an offer of his assistance towards the reparation of the damage he had done, drove away as if he had been possessed with a parcel of mercurial devils.

This was an adventure of so extraordinary a nature, that it afforded us a good subject for conversation, which was kept up, for an hour or two, with just as much briskness as the most momentous parliamentary debate is.

Mrs. Fake, the whole of the afternoon, was particularly kind and obliging to me, and paid me very great attention, which I thought was merely the effect of good-

breeding, because I was the youngest in company: but when grim-visaged night had so covered the fair face of day with her sooty veil, as to make every person in the coach quite invisible, I found, to my no small confusion, that it proceeded from another motive, which I might, in pity to the sex, forbear to publish, had I not as good as promised my reader, that I would, memory willing, relate to him every adventure worthy of note; and as I consider what this lady tempted me to commit as such, I cannot, with any degree of honesty, pass it over in silence.

About dusk, my eyes began to twinkle and grow exceedingly heavy, owing, no doubt, to the motion of the coach, and my rising so early in the morning; not to mention the liquor I had drank. Indeed, I never felt a greater inclination to sleep in my life. For a while, I contented myself with now and then a nod, but was, at length, irresistably dragged into a downright nap, which continued, as near as I

can guess, about two hours ; when I was hastily awoke by the jolting of the coach, and, to my utter astonishment, found a lady's arm round my middle.

I need not tell thee, my good reader, that a person who is startled out of a sound sleep has an uncommon degree of wild stupidity about him. I laid my hand upon the arm in a fright hardly to be conceived, much less described. The truth is, I did not at first know what to make of it. For all the day had been so remarkably pleasant, it was now so very dark, that there was not a star, or the least gleam of light to be seen ; and I had cleanly forgot which of the two young ladies sat on my left ; for it was my left-hand-neighbour who had got me in this too-loving manner. However, by giving my memory a few smart lashes, I recollected that the pretty widow was on the right side of me, and the more *pretty* Mrs. Fake on the left.

I shook and trembled like a person that has seen some hideous object; and if it had been day-light, I should, without question, have exhibited a face not much paler than a soldier's jacket, or the wattles of a cock. As if to banish my panic confusion, she pressed me gently to her bosom, took my hand in her's, and bestowed upon it some of the kindest squeezes I ever felt. My fears, I must confess, took flight as quickly as they came; and desire, like a man who is unexpectedly set at liberty after a long and gloomy imprisonment, began to caper upon my heart in a most extravagant manner. My natural coyness and timidity very soon forsook me: I panted with a violent, though pleasing torture: I nestled nearer and nearer to my caressing leopard, till at length I found the road to her lips. It was now impossible for me to fall back, with any honour at least; so I stole a silent kiss, which had such an agreeable taste, that I took another, another, and another. The lady cribbed one now and

then from me: and to tell thee the plain truth at once, reader, we became, in a few minutes, two as vile and abominable *thieves*, as ever *robbed* on the highway.

The coach arriving at Peterborough, this amorous pantomime was unavoidably brought to a conclusion, otherwise I know not how or when it would have ended.

At the inn where we put up, it was a regular custom (and, I understood, had been so time out of mind) for every traveller who came there, to look, the first thing he did, through his respective bed-chamber, and take down the number of the door, most likely to prevent blunders and mistakes.

Immediately after we had observed this rule, supper appeared on table; and although it was rather late, we all, saving the old lady, who would not for the world touch any thing but a slice of bread and butter, sat down to it. My buck and the

captain fell to, as if they had fasted a couple of days: the chop-fallen gentleman and the sprightly widow, to give them their due, played their parts well enough: but for myself and Mrs. Fake, we made nothing at all out. As the phrase is, we did not, both together, eat what a bird would pick. No, our minds were too much taken up with what had passed between us in the coach, to think about answering the cries of our stomachs.

Repast finished, the three gentlemen set on foot a debate, something about ministerial affairs, which was carried on, for the space of half an hour, with a vengeance. When they had entered so far into the heat of it, as to appear quite transported with their own elocution, Mrs. Fake, who sat next me, put her head unobserved upon my right shoulder, and whispered, fawningly, in my ear, "If I am not too bold, sir, what is the number of your lodging-room-door?" Though I was very much surprised at the question, I

forthwith presented her with the small slip of paper on which I had set it down. She looked at it in a careless manner, smiled, sighed, and then gave it me back.

Exactly as the disputants had made an end of their argument, the clock struck twelve; so we all arose from our seats, and retired anon to our particular chambers.

I was in hopes, when I got into bed, that I should fall asleep directly, and have a good night's rest; but, alas, how wide was I in my calculation! No sooner had I laid my head upon the pillow, than I began to think about the casualties of the day, and a thousand other things; all which added together, kept my brains in such hot play, that the kind soother of fatigue, who had promised—perceptibly promised to befriend me, expanded his silky wings, and left me fairly in the lurch. I was hurried from one reflection to another, quicker than the pendulum

of a clock performs its vibrations, or the little light-winged titmouse hops from twig to twig. In a word, my head was quite hampered with thought.

I was just reckoning how much money I had, one way or another, made shift to help out of my pocket, when I fancied I heard my room-door open and shut. I listened with some degree of terror, but nothing stirred; all was still as an uninhabited house. What could it be? Oh, fancy, mere fancy. Holding up my courage with this idea, I immediately turned over on my left side; but had not lain in that position above half a minute, before I felt the bed shake. Heaven and earth! in what a violent trepidation was I thrown! One of the side curtains was suddenly undrawn, and lo! an odd figure presented itself to my view. Not a fearful apparition in a winding-sheet, reader, but a fine-shaped lady in her *chemise*. I was completely thunderstruck: for who, in the name of all that's lascivi-

ous, should it be but Mrs. Fake? She uttered, in a sweet trembling tone, a few incoherent expressions, seized hold of my hand, and threw herself upon the bed beside me. Though my heart could not entirely forget its fears, I nevertheless felt something of a vicious nature stealing gradually into it. Her kindness to me in the coach, occurred to my mind in an instant. She sighed so heavily, and in such good earnest, that I pitied her from my soul; and as soon as I had recovered myself, I certainly should, *out of gratitude*, have invited her to a share of my bed: but she, in a little time, crept in to me of her own accord, and so saved me the trouble.

Ye prudes and formalists, who shame at every species of indecorum, blush down to your finger ends. Ye coquettes and wantons, who are well versed in the arts and devices of amorous intrigue, lift up your hands, and wonder, *if you can*, at this matchless piece of lechery.

The prologue to the play was but short: and when Mrs. Fake had got what we may naturally suppose she came for, she, with a thousand wild and romantic professions of love, bade me adieu, and left me—cruelly left me—to fight with my own reflections. I chewed the cud of remorse till day-break; and then, and not before then, old Somnus and I made up our quarrel.

CHAP. VI.

Which ought to make the good-natured Reader commiserate the Author to a high degree, but which, he is sadly afraid, will produce quite an opposite effect.

I WAS called up by the chamber-maid a little before eight, so that the time I had slept appeared scarce a minute. My head ached intolerably, and I went down stairs heavy enough in all conscience.

When I met Mrs. Fake at breakfast, I blushed up to the eyes; and I thought she coloured too; but perhaps I was mistaken: for a woman who hath not virtue enough in her to hinder an incontinent desire from pushing her beyond the boundaries of decency, very seldom does a thing, though it be ever so bad, that she is properly ashamed of.

About nine of the clock, the coachman gave us notice, that he should be ready for us in a few minutes; so we began to make a great stir, and ring the bell for our bills, bundles, portmanteaus, and the Lord knows what. The inn-keeper answered our demands with the utmost expedition; and while he was busily making out our several accounts, my powdered spark gave me a sly tap on the shoulder, and taking me aside, whispered in my ear; "If you could favour me with the loan of a guinea, sir, I should be eternally obliged t'ye; for I have no less than a forty-pound-bill upon me, and I'm afraid I shan't have time to get it cashed. I will pay it you back, sir, along with that which I borrowed from you at the place where we dined, with a deal of thanks, as soon as ever we set foot in Northampton.

I must own, this second application to my pocket, made me stare a little; but as I had not the least reason to suspect his

honesty, I put what he desired of me into his hand, without saying a word. He was in such a violent hurry, for what reason I know not, to pocket the favour, that it slipped out of his fingers, and falling on the floor, bowled across the room like a man who has given fist-bail to a sheriff's officer. My buck pursued it close, you may be sure; but before he could stop it, it took refuge under the petticoats of the old lady, who was sat by the fire. His fear of losing it, made him forget the little point of delicacy that was proper to be observed in such a case; for, without search-warrant, or any other authority, he followed the run-away, with his hand, straight into its hiding-place, and made so shamefully free with the old girl's legs, that she was off her chair in a twinkling, and squawled with all the plaintive melody of a stuck pig.

As soon as he had picked the guinea up, and put it into safe custody, he found out the blunder he had been guilty of;

and approaching the offended old lady, with much confusion of look, would gladly have asked pardon for his unintentional rudeness: but she was like a red-hot fury, vowing, she would have the law against him, for attempting to violate her chastity. In vain did he declare, swear, and protest, he had no such thought in his head: in vain did he essay to reason with her: in vain did he plead his innocence. I never, in the whole course of my life, saw an old person in such a fume. Her face was the very colour of crimson, and she grinned as fiercely as an hyæna.

My buck, apprehending no other vengeance from her than that which her tongue inflicted, came, very orderly, within arms'-length of her, in all likelihood to try another way of pacifying her. But it would have been better for him, had he staid where he was: for, without giving him a moment's warning, she flew at him with all the fury imaginable, set her long claws in his face, and

played the cat so admirably, that he began to bellow like a raging bull. She marked him on each side the nose pretty handsomely, and a good deal of blood, not less than two drachms, flowed immediately from the scratches, and trickled sharply down his cheeks ; so that, as my reader must allow, she had used her nails to some purpose. But this was not all : the old beldam, not wholly satisfied with what she had done, pulled out a large silver snuff-box, took off the lid of it, and with a ferocious grin, threw every grain of its contents into his phiz. This done, she smacked her hands together, well-nigh a dozen times, in a style that, I'll be bound to say, would not have disgraced the choicest gentry of Billingsgate, and hurried out of the room.

The poor beau was in a woful plight, to be sure. Smarting with his scars, and half-blinded with snuff, he stamped about, and roared in a manner that almost bordered on distraction. 'Tis true, we were

all heartily sorry for his misfortune, but, at the same time, he cut such a comical figure, that, I do assure thee, reader, it was as much as we could do, maugre our pity, to refrain from laughing at him.

The lady of the house, who appeared to be a tender-hearted soul, spared no pains to bring him to his proper countenance again. She led him softly into the kitchen, encouraging him all the way with, "Ah, poor gentleman! it was a barbarous action of her, to be sure; but I pray you, sir, don't let your heart down; for, if it please the Lord, all shall be right and straight with you in a very short time." And she made her words good: for, having cleansed his face well, she bathed his eyes with a solution of ceruse, and applied a healing salve to his scratches; consequently, my buck came back to us as much altered for the better, as a dirty kettle is, after it has undergone a good scouring.

As for my old Bellona, she, in the apex of her passion, hired a post-chaise, and set off, without so much as saying, 'Good b'ye to you all!'

The day was very dull and gloomy, and all our spirits seemed to be in unity with it; insomuch, that little or nothing was said in all the way to Northampton. We arrived at that neat place early in the evening; and as I had rested so poorly the night before, I took some little refreshment, and went to bed. As luck would have it, I was neither disturbed with reflection nor Mrs. Fake; so, when I arose next morning, I felt, as it were, quite new made.

The very first thing I did after breakfast, was to put myself in the best trim I could, in order to wait upon the two gentlemen on whom my establishment in life in so great a measure depended. Taking the commendatory letters out of my pocket-book, I found one was directed to

Mr. Theobald Fribbler, attorney at law, and the other to Mr. Joshua Cute, liquor-merchant and distiller. I say found ; for I give the reader my assurance, though he may think it somewhat strange, if not unnatural, that I did not know their names till this very moment.

As the streets in which they lived were not subjoined, I enquired of one of the waiters, if he knew two such gentlemen, and in what parts of the town their houses were ? “ I know Mister What-d’ye-call-um, the lawyer, well enough, sir : ” said he, eyeing me very narrowly ; “ but as to the other pirson, I must confiss I niver hard his name mintioned in my life before. ” I then told him, I should take it as a favour, if he would direct me, as well as he could, to the lawyer’s house, seeing I had particular business with him. “ Can’t, sir ! can’t ! haven’t time, sir ! ” cried he, pulling his cravat over his chin, and trying to look as big as an alderman ; “ but, I dare say, any odd lad in the street will

take you right to his door, for the valet of two-pence." So saying, he drew a tolerable-sized table-cloth out of his pocket, and went away from me with the veriest strut I ever saw.

I was more surprised than vexed at this saucy, coxcomical answer ; but going out into the street, I soon met with a person who readily gave me all the information I wanted. Having pointed out the market-place to me, he gave me to understand, that Mr. Fribbler's house was close by Allhallows'-church ; and that there was a large brass-plate on the door, with his name engraved upon it. " But as you appear to be a stranger in town, sir," added the man, who, by his dress, I took to be a bricklayer ; " I will, if you think fit, conduct you to it myself." I thanked him for his civility, with the compliment of six-pence, but told him I thought I could find the place now, without any difficulty : and, indeed, I did not think at random ; for after I had crossed the

market-place, the very first door-plate I looked at, had the name of Fribbler on it.

I marched up the steps immediately,—laid hold on the knocker,—and gave a good loud ran-tan ; which, in a little time, was answered by a footman in livery. I asked him, if his master was within ? He replied in the affirmative. Upon which, I told him I had some business with him, and wished to see him directly, if possible. The footman made answer, that Mr. Fribbler would be at his office in the course of an hour ;—but I told him, the matter I came about was not in the way of law ; so he desired me to walk in, and ushered me, without much ceremony, into an elegant parlour.

After I had waited, with a palpitating heart, occasioned by a chaos of odd thoughts, a good share of an hour, another footman bounced into the room where I was. “ Master begs, sir,” said he, with a bow and a scrape ; “ that you will be kind enough to step up stairs to him.”

The fellow broke in upon me so suddenly, and delivered his message in such a confounded strange manner, that I was as much fluttered as if I had been caught in the act of pilferring. I followed him, in silence, through a spacious hall, at the end of which stood the foot of the stairs.

When we had gained the first landing, he stopped at a large door, which he sharply opened; and at the farther end of the room, I perceived a gentleman and two ladies, who proved to be Mr., Mrs., and Miss Fribbler, at breakfast.

“Here is the young gentleman, sir,” cried my herald, bowing to the attorney, “Ha, very well!” said he, in a petticoat-style; “Pray tell him to walk in.”

I must confess, when I first entered the room, I felt more like a person in the pillory, than any thing else: but notwithstanding my bashfulness, I contrived to make a tolerable obeisance, which the

ladies politely returned with two low curtsies.

Mr. Fribbler, who was a prim squat man, did not stir an inch, either one way or another, but sat upon his chair as listlessly as 'twas possible for him to do. He was dressed in a morning-gown, had a large skin of parchment in his hand, and looked, on the whole, a lawyer of no little importance. "I beg, sir, you will be seated;" said he, casting a side glance at me, "and when I have looked at a certain little clause in this, (turning over the parchment) I will attend to you." I accordingly took a chair; and during the time that Mr. Fribbler was engaged with his clause, the two ladies and I exchanged a few trifling words, as, "A fine day, sir!" "Yes, ma'am," and the like.

He, however, did not keep me in suspense long; for, in less than five minutes, he told me he was my humble servant; and desiring to know my business, I de-

livered the letter to him. "That, sir," said I; "if you will take the trouble to peruse it, will inform you." Without asking another question, he broke it open; and while he was reading it, he every now and then threw a pleasant look at me, which gave my hopes the strongest encouragement. "And, pray, sir," said he, when he had read the letter through; "in what state of health did you leave the old gentleman?" I replied, that he appeared to be very stout in body; but that since the decay of his school, I fancied he had been more pensive than common. "Dear me, I am extremely sorry to hear that!" cried he; "But it is to be hoped the gentlemen of Lincoln will do something for him. He is a very worthy man; and it would be a scandal not to help him in his necessity. If I lived there, I would set the example immediately. You have often heard me speak, my dear, (turning to his wife) of a Mr. Prosody?" "Oh, yes, very frequently indeed!" cried Mrs. Fribbler. "He was your tutor, was he not,

papa?" cried Miss. "The same;" answered he, with a consequential air; "and a finer scholar Great Britain never produced. This letter is from him. Ha, dear me! there are so many casualties, revolutions, contingencies, and perils in life, that a man is sure of nothing. We are one day upon the highest pinnacle of happiness, and another in the deepest gulph of distress. Poor old gentleman! you now find the consequence of being over generous. Had you not taken an imprudent *outcast* by the hand, and lavished the earnings of your toil upon him, I make no doubt but you would, ere this, have saved a good round sum."

Good God! what a variety of passions did this last indirect sentence work within me! The meaning of it to me was but too palpable. The name of imprudent outcast pierced me like an arrow; for I knew very well, that my good, though unfortunate father was the mark at which the gun was levelled. Being, like him,

of a fiery nature, I know not what I should have said or done to the little lawyer, had not the consideration of my condition stayed me. I bridled my indignation as well as I could, and was resolved not to give my resentment scope, but let it waste itself, if possible, in silence. Yet, although I strove to the utmost to keep my countenance straight, I am pretty certain it set my efforts at defiance, and shewed the sufferings of my heart very clearly: for, twice or thrice, I caught Miss Fribbler, who seemed to be about my own age, casting a soft, compassionate look at me; which I took so kind of her, that I afterwards set her down, in my own mind, for a lady of nice sensibility and discernment.

The lawyer, immediately after he had vented those cruel words, began to look the letter over again; so that by the time he had finished it, my choler had, in some measure, subsided.

“What kind of a situation would you

like, Mr. Ranger?" said he, eyeing me very curiously from head to foot. I answered, that if I could get one that would supply me with means to procure the common necessities of life, I should be very thankful. "Ha,—hum,—ba!—you are vastly moderate, indeed, sir;" cried he, stroking his chin; "and I should be extremely glad to serve you, for the sake of him that recommended you;—but—but—I protest, sir, you could not have applied at a worse time. I am so prodigiously full of business, that I have not a single moment to call my own;—'tis a fact, sir, I assure you. With one thing or another, I am completely jaded. Fag, fag, fag, from morning till night—but what age may you be, pray?" "I attained my eighteenth year, sir," replied I; "on the twenty-second of last July." "The twenty-second of last July?" echoed he, with a vacant stare; "Ha!—eighteen, you say?—Dear me, what a monstrous pity it is you are not a year younger! Had you been but seventeen, sir, I could

have got you a most excellent place.” “And will a twelvemonth make such odds, sir?” cried I. “O, very great odds, indeed!” answered he; “I proposed a youth, last week, who is upwards of four months younger than you; but the gentleman who hath the post at his disposal, told me, in positive terms, that one who was more than seventeen, would not suit. I believe the place is not as yet taken up; but your age, sir, you perceive, knocks all on the head at once.”

This said, he looked at his watch, started upon his feet, seemingly in a great surprise, and elevating his eye-brows, cried, “Eleven o’clock, as I hope to be blessed! Gad-a-mercy! ought to have been at my office half an hour ago.” I was not so stupid, but that I took the hint in a moment; and making a bow that had not much of the respectful in it, I took my leave, mightily vexed at my wayward luck.

Before I had got fairly out of the room, the little artful hero took care to shout after me " You will not forget, Mr. Ranger, to give my very best respects to Mr. Prosody ; and be sure you tell him how forward I was to serve you." I did not turn about my head, to say, whether I would or would not, but hurried down stairs, as dumpish as it was possible for such a disappointment to make me ; and without staying to be let out by a footman, opened the door, and was in the street in a twinkling.

Not being determined which way to go, I made a sudden halt ; and while I was considering about it, I heard, right over my head, a shrill hem, from the soft pipes of a female. On looking up, I saw Miss leaning out of the window. She smiled and nodded very courteously at me. I touched my hat, and that was all I did, in return : indeed, I had too much upon my mind to attend to petticoat-affairs.

Having walked to the opposite side of the market-place, I made up to an huckster-wench, of whom I enquired, whereabouts Mr. Joshua Cute, my other *destined* patron, lived. But I was not a whit the wiser for my pains; for the girl, who was either deaf, or did not understand plain English, or what is more probable, was not a dealer in the article of civility, answered me, though I repeated the question several times, only with a foolish stare, from which I was not able to gather a jot of what I wanted; so I went, *sans* hesitation, into a silversmith's shop, and on making my demand, was told by a little, smart, glib-tongued gentleman, who had a pen fixed behind his right ear, and rubbed his hands incessantly as he spoke, that the liquor-merchant's house was three miles out of town, but that his vault was in a court, near the red-bull tavern, to which he gave me such good directions, that I found it without the least trouble.

As I entered the vault, which was very

spacious, and well stored with puncheons, my heart was ready to sink under the weight of uncertainty and fear. I knocked at the counting-house-door, with but sorry hopes of success; and a voice that was boisterous enough to have startled the most intrepid person, ordered me to walk in. I obeyed, without scruple, and saw a plain-dressed man stand writing at a desk. He looked at me, for some time, very sternly, and then asked me, in a surly tone, what I wanted? I desired him to tell me, where I could meet with Mr. Cute? "My name is Cute," said he, in a blunt unpolished style; and demanding of me what my business was, I took the letter out of my pocket, and put it immediately into his hand.

If I had cause to be intimidated with the mere voice of this gentleman, I had double grounds for fear, when my eyes were made properly acquainted with his person. Nature had cast him in one of her preposterous moulds. He was, if I

may be permitted to use a plebeian phrase, length out of fashion: without exaggeration, he stood six feet seven inches. He was very much bloated, and carried upon his shoulders a sizeable hump, which, by eyes that are apt to magnify things, might possibly have been taken for a huge mountain. His hair was lank, greasy, and somewhat grizzled; his mouth was frightfully wide; and his nose, which looked with snarling scrutiny into his mouth, was large and protuberant in proportion. He had only one eye, and that was uncommonly small and deep set: it resembled a wood-fire that is almost consumed, when a dull languid flame is just perceived through the white embers. His face was entirely covered with big red pimples, which gave the world a broad hint, that he was *no bad customer* to himself. In a word, his countenance was so ungraciously sour, and he was, on the whole, so ill-favoured, that he put me strongly in mind of the Cyclops.

His looks alone, while he was reading the letter, would have made me shudder for my fate ; in fact, they portended nothing but a cruel negation of succour ; but what caused every glimmering of hope wholly to vanish, were the gruff murmurs that I heard him, each now and then, let out.

As soon as he had read it to an end, he struck his fist upon the desk, gave a loud hoarse cough, and looking at me with a hideous frown, vehemently exclaimed, "D—n my plugs and spigots ! what a thick-headed, idiotical, jack-assical, son of a b—ch of a d—n'd pedantic school-master it is ! Cleave my spine, if the fellow's not gone lunatic ! Brimstone and burning faggots ! how the devil and all his taper-tailed imps, does he suppose that I can do any thing for his w—e's brat ? Curse his impudent scrawl ! Harkee, Muster What's-your-name ?--pish ! pshaw ! poh ! never mind names !—d—n names ! —send names to h—ll, with a flea in their

ears!—but lookee, young man!—don't you think,—I say,—singe my liver,—don't you think, that Muster Prosody is a d—n'd sneaking, undermining, blear-eyed, rotten old viper, to attempt to impose upon my good-nature, in this diabolical manner? By the lice of St. Lucifer, if I had him here, I'd make him wear his wig the wrong side before! d—n my kidneys, if I wouldn't!"

Here he was suddenly arrested with a violent fit of coughing, which continued with him for several minutes; thereafter, mollifying, in some degree, the rigour of his voice and aspect, he prosecuted his elegant harangue thus: "Though I am, without exception, the mildest and best-natured man, lookee, in the universe, yet I know, as well as here and there one, how to resent an injury. I couldn't have thought, d—n my neglected genius, if I could, that old Wigsby was capable of acting in such a devilish shabby way:—but he's mad,—stark mad!—that's the only

thing there is in his favour. If he had been in his sober senses, he would never have planned a trick so full of combustible rascality. By G—, sir, let me tell you, there is many a fellow in this h—ll-hole of a world, that would have him hanged in a jiffy, and you sent to the hulks for life, if he was in my place ; but b—st me, I have too great a share of humanity to take delight even in punishing rogues ! I am at peace with all the world : ay, ay, d—n me ! tantrabobus for that ! Whiz ! fudge ! bombs ! groans ! bullets ! tobacco-fumes ! cracked-sculls ! bum-cracks, and doodledumdoo !—Come, Muster Thingumbob, if you please, we'll drink a glass together, d—n my heart ! Spirits or wine ? Whuh, don't fight shy, man ! I abominate your d—n'd milksops !”

Great as my dread of his person was, and as much as I was scared with his roaring voice, his ribaldry, far from increasing my terror, only served to stir up my resentment ; for no sooner had he pro-

nounced the word milkshops, than I cried, in as loud a key as my lungs would let me, "I am sorry, sir, that Mr. Prosody should have been so far deceived in you, as to suppose you his friend, or, indeed, any man's friend." "G— scorch your windpipe!" vociferated he, in a strain little milder than the thunder which Jupiter, as the poets tell us, hurled from *Olympus* upon the rebel-Titans; "What the h—ll d'ye mean by that?"

"A civil answer, sir," cried I, still keeping my voice upon the stretch; "was the least thing that I expected from you; but even that you have thought fit to withhold, and put in its room the most contemptible language,—language, sir, that is not only odious in itself, but a perfect disgrace to humanity.—As for your liquor, I would rather die than touch a drop on't."

This last word had but barely got out of my mouth, before he ejaculated, in the most furious manner conceivable, "D——n

seize every limb of your body! What, you bloody hell-kite! you blazing imp of melted pitch! dare you stand there, and wag your devil's-jaw against me? Flaming oil and sulphur be my lot in Satan's a—, if I don't teach you better manners, whoreson!"

As soon as ever he had uttered this, he seized hold of a quart-bottle, which stood upon the desk beside him, and without saying—by your leave, flung it straight at my head. However, as luck would have it, he missed his shot; and the door of the counting-house being open, the bottle flew, with the utmost velocity, to the farther end of the vault, and broke against the wall, in a thousand pieces.

Vexed that he had miscarried in his purpose, he vented a volley of the most impious execrations, and stooped to reach up the fire-poker; but I did not care to give him an opportunity of trying his aim again, seeing I had so narrowly es-

aped a fractured skull, or, peradventure, something worse: so I ran quickly, or rather as if his Stygian majesty had been at my heels, into the street.

The *spirituous* merchant fired a good round of his choicest oaths after me; but, terrible as they were, they did not in the least check the speed with which I fled: indeed, if they answered any end at all, I am well persuaded, it was that of helping me forward.

I was out of this monster's* presence,

* With respect to the character of Mr. Joshua Cute, a great deal may be brought forward in favour of even its harshest lineaments; lineaments which a connoisseur who hath more delicacy than penetration, may blame me for not striking out. The vague and contemptible vice of swearing is now grown to such a head, that I know not of any method that is half so likely to throw it out of fashion, as the displaying it to the world in its naked grossness and stupidity. Many worthy, learned, and ingenious gentlemen of the gown, have done their utmost to show its insignificance and deformity in long and pathetic discourses from the pulpit; as many speculative

I may say, in a moment; and in a few more, was entirely out of sight of the building that contained him.

moralists too have contributed their mite towards its abolition; but all without effect. Since, therefore, its listless patrons and upholders will not be convinced with reason, the best way is to let their *own rods* beat them. It is allowed on all hands, that example is better than precept; because the one shews you at once what is your duty, and the actual benefits arising from a faithful discharge of it; and the other only tells you, that you must not do such and such things, without any self-evident proof of the badness or impurity of them. By the same rule, I conceive, the giving an *example* of a ribald's oaths (if you do it for the sake of manifesting their barrenness and stolidity) would curb your swearing readers far more effectually, than saying, in the course of delineating his character, that he cursed like a trooper, or uttered execrations, than which more impious or tremendous ones were never heard, and the like. If the vices and follies of life must be ridiculed, where can they be done with a better grace, than in *Works of Humour*? But then you will answer me, critics, that there are two ways of ridiculing, the delicate and the strong. Granted. To a delicate foible I would give delicate words; to a strong vice or inconsistency, strong ones. A sensible reader will, no doubt, consider the language which is put in the mouth of this boisterous personage, with the

My mind was more in a fiery and fretted state, than depressed ; and I made the best of my way to the inn, (though with but a scurvy idea of my future fortune, God wot :) in order to consider what measures would be best for me to take.

As I walked on, I briefly ran over in my thoughts the *kind* usage I had met with from my two mock patrons ; and when I reflected, that one short hour had

most perfect disgust ; but, I must tell you, it is not the Author he is disgusted with, but the wickedness itself. On the other hand, a set of ordinary readers (to please whom, by the bye, I am sure he did by no means set his wits and invention to work) will totally disregard, or rather not see, the drift of it, and pull him in pieces without mercy. In short, it is the province of a sarcastic novelist (for such, by your licence, we will style him) to paint men and things as they are, not as they should be ; and if he had pursued a different track, I should absolutely fancy that he had made himself obnoxious to the *disgrace* of being called an arrant romance-writer.

This note is by the Publisher.

crushed all my fair expectations, and brought me to a pass little preferable to consummate beggary; and that I had drained (for I know no other term which I can with propriety use) that worthy man, Mr. Prosody, of most of, if not all, his ready money, to no purpose,—and the infinite uneasiness and trouble with which his excellent heart would inevitably be oppressed, if I did not return to Lincoln; I say, these various reflections so cruelly harrassed me, one after another, that I hardly knew, as the phrase is, whether I walked on my head or feet, or whither I was going. The higher my agitation rose, the quicker was my pace: and 'tis my firm belief, that if I had had a quarter of a mile further to go, I should, though the morning was really cold, have trudged myself into a violent and profuse sweat. But, for fear I should throw my good-natured reader's patience into a sweat, it behoves me to put an end to the chapter, that he may have some little time to recruit his breath.

CHAP. VII.

A very short Chapter ; from which, however, the Reader, if he please, may pick one or two beneficial hints.

WHATEVER our judicious philosophers may say about men of sound discretion conversing in a smooth and collected manner, and keeping their looks in a perfect state of calmness and serenity, when their hearts are laden with the most weighty distress ; I will venture to assert, and I hope I shall not be thought presumptuous thereby, for I do not mean to lessen their discernment, that among a hundred persons of true sensibility (remember, I say *true*), there is not one who, when he is properly touched with sorrow, can either speak or look with any tolerable grace : and even though he have a half-witted being to deal with, it is much to me, however determined he may be to

appear tranquil, if he do not completely betray himself, before he hath uttered a far less number than a thousand words.

To say the truth, there is a certain class of people in the world, whose hearts are as incapable of being materially injured, or cast down, by calamity, let it be of what kind it will, as their eyes are of receiving any great delight from what the generality of mankind call charming and exquisitely fine objects: and if no alteration is seen in the mien and behaviour of such, when 'tis well known, that a regiment of sharp-footed evils are pursuing them, they are almost certain to be cried up for men of profound sense and invincible fortitude. But this mighty coolness, or temperance, or, if the reader likes, indifference, proceeds not from a philosophical resignation, but, on the contrary, is owing to a wide defect in nature,—too palpable to need an explication.

So great was the disorder of my spirits,

when I got back to the inn, that I had like to have overturned one of the poor waiters, who happened, at the time, to be crossing the great hall, with a hand-board-load of plates and glasses; and going into the room in which I had breakfasted, I threw myself disconsolately into a chair, where, by my rigmarole and melancholy looks, and the odd posture in which I sat, I drew the notice of two strange gentlemen (who were enjoying themselves over a cup of coffee, and whom I at first did not observe) upon me.

I must confess, to give those gentlemen their full due, they made a most excellent, or rather most impudent, use of their eyes; insomuch that I question whether they would not, provided I had been my proper self, have put me out of all manner of countenance: but as it was, I paid little or no regard to them; though I saw them, every now and then, tip each other the wink, and distort their faces, by way of ridicule.

Nothing, I believe, upon earth, could have brought my mind back to its ordinary quiet at this moment. The contumely, the insufferable insults I had received, together with those matters that related, in a more especial manner, to Mr. Prosody, drove me almost distracted. The more I mused, the more I was dejected. I had no friend before whom I could lay open my heart, and with whom I could advise: I was in a strange town too, and at an inn, which, of all places in the world, is the most uncomfortable to a young person who has seldom or never stirred from home. The bustling of coachmen and their lackeys,—the skipping and flying about of waiters—the clapping-to of doors,—the hallooing and whistling of ostlers, shoeblacks, and understrappers,—the incessant ringing of bells, and more incessant clacking of women's tongues, &c. &c. are undoubtedly very surprising, and very disagreeable things to one who has been accustomed to live what we may call a quiet sort of a life. Indeed, when

we come to consider every thing thoroughly, an inn, hotel, or public-house (style it which you will) is no very pleasant abode for any one. But this looks something like a digression.

After passing from one galling thought to another, I at length came to that which immediately concerned my pocket; and here prudence, or folly (I know not, for certain, which of the two it was) ordered me, by all means, to scotch the wheels of my travelling mind, if I may be allowed the use of that expression, and carefully examine the state of my finances. Accordingly, I did so, utterly regardless of the two gentlemen's staring, for they seemed resolved to outface me; and I found, that one poor half-guinea, and seven shillings in silver, composed the whole stock of my purse.

The reader may have a pretty good guess what my next consideration was:

but, perhaps, he has suffered the more important matters, in one or two of the preceding chapters, to swallow up the lesser ones ; if so, it will be necessary for me to put him in mind of the two guineas which one of my fellow-travellers borrowed of me. He may recollect, for I would not do his memory a wilful injustice, that that gentleman, when he made the second petition to my pocket at Peterborough, gave me his very best assurance, that he would reimburse me, as soon as ever we reached Northampton : but, although we arrived at that place early in the evening, as I have before mentioned, and several hours were now advanced in another day, he had not taken the smallest notice of the affair. Indeed, he appeared so much at his ease, that he might not have owed a single farthing in the world.

I must own, that before I went out on that fruitless business which was the cause of my journey, I did not trouble myself,

or, in fact, think at all about the matter ; but when I returned, in the manner I have described, weighed down with disappointment and chagrin, and by counting over my cash, gave myself a hint of what I had lent, in plain English, the two guineas ;—I say, when this occurred to me, I thought 'twas high time to ride the *dun-mare*: so up I got off my chair, and went out, full butt, to inquire for my gentleman.

The eyes of the two *civilized* personages followed me across the room like four pages of honour ; and I had no sooner got out of the door, than my ears were assaulted with a noise exactly similar to that which I have frequently heard a horse make, by way of rejoicing, when it is first turned loose into the fields after a hard day's labour. But that thou mayest rightly understand me, reader, I must tell thee, it was what most people call a horse-laugh ; a laugh, at which I am somewhat *astonished* the learned and

ingenious * Earl of Chesterfield did not level a whole folio of satire.

The person who called himself the master of the inn, happening to be then in the bar, I made up to him forthwith, and without any preface, asked him, in what room the company that came in the York-coach were.

* I remember reading Lord Chesterfield's Letters some years ago ; and all that I remember of them is, that there was little in them worth remembering, or nothing but what had better have been forgotten. I thought them insignificant for the amusement of a boy, if not pernicious, as tending to sink him into folly and wickedness, and not to exalt him to wisdom, or to inspire him with the love of virtue, and consequently to excite him to noble actions, and the practice of justice. Their sentiments rubbed away the asperities of vice : it was gilding a bitter pill, sweetening poison, or putting tempting bait to a hook ; and though he told him, the bitterness, the poison, and the hook, were there, of what use was the caution, when he had first intoxicated him, and made him incapable of attending to it ? His censure of assimilation was right ; his praise of dissimulation was wrong ; his definition of each incomplete.

"Company, sir?" cried he, with a stare that intimated nothing but stupid surprise; "God save your soul-case, sir! the company, sir, have made their *egg-shit*, sir, some time ago, sir."

"What, I fancy," said I, "they are gone to look about them a little?"

"It is just as you say, sir," replied he; tho' one would be apt to think, that folks could not see much in a coach. Ay, ay, they are driving away to Coventry fast enough, good people!"

"Surely, you are jesting with me, sir!" cried I, starting with surprise and fear; "the coach cannot be gone!"

"The devil it cannot!" said he, rather peevishly; "then I am gone crazy, and have lost both my pretty piercers."

"What is it you tell me?" cried I, re-
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dy to drop on the ground ; “and are all, all the company gone, say you?”

“Ay, all, all, all!” cries he, “as sure as G— made Moses!—tagrag and bobtail! No, ’sblid! I have overshot my mark, as the saying is: they didn’t all go together; but whoh-up a bit! I didn’t tell a stretcher either, when I said they was all gone; becaase they sartainly are gone; thurfore, a body may speak truth and shame the devil; ay, and as poor Bob Windy used to say, bid defiance to hell-flames themselves. Twixt friends, I don’t like, over well, to hear even a parson tell a fib; thof, to be sure, they know how to handle one better than other folks: well, but then that’s not to be wondered at, you observe, for they get a good knack wi’ writing their what-d’ye-call-ums?”

I know not to what lengths he would have let his impertinence travel, if I had not interrupted him, by asking him, whether the gentleman in black (meaning my

buck) had left any thing in his hands for me ?

“ Gentleman in black !” echoed he, in a hesitating manner ; “ black—black—black gentleman !—Umph !—let me be-think myself !—black—black—pox o’ my head-piece ! Black as an ousel, I suppose ?—Oh, ’sblid, I know who you mean now ! He’s a powdered head, hasn’t he ?”

“ He has,” answered I, “ and his face is very much pimpled.”

“ Ay, sir, very much pimpled :” cried he ; “ I know’d I wasn’t wrong. Why, that gentleman went off about an hour since, in a chaise and four, to Towcester.”

“ And did he not leave something to be delivered to me ?” cried I, pretty sharply.

“ Oh, bless my life !” cried the little bar-maid, preventing the landlord’s reply, and stepping briskly up to me with

a letter in her hand ; “ I had like to have forgot ;—I ask your pardon, sir !—The gentleman desired me to give you this. (Presenting me with the letter.) You are dressed in blue, a’n’t you, sir ?—Oh, yes, I see I’m right.

From the answers which the honest inn-keeper gave me, I absolutely began to think, that I might, as the phrase is, whistle for my money ; but what the girl said, together with the sight of a letter, was such good news to my drowning spirits, that I really believe I should have bussed her, if no one had been by.

I now begged to be shewn into a private room ; which request was immediately complied with ; and the little bar-maid conducted me to a small parlour adjoining the kitchen. The moment we entered, she looked slyly about her, and then slipped another letter into my hand, crying, in a whisper, “ That is for you too, sir ! The lady in the hairy top-coat desired me to give it you secretly.”

She had no sooner spoken this, than she dropped her curtsy, and flew out of the room ; leaving me in such a state of perplexity and amazement, that if any curious person had popped in upon me at the time, I'll be bound, he would have thought I did not look, by any means, so wise as Solomon.

Who the lady in the hairy top-coat was, I fancy I shall have no occasion to tell the reader.

As soon as I had re-assembled my dispersed thoughts, I directed my attention to the first letter I had received ; in other terms, I broke the seal of it : but judge of my consternation, when, instead of the expected reimbursement and thanks, I read these mortifying words.

“ My good-natured sir,

Whatever you do, take particular
“ care that you never lend your money to
“ a stranger again.”

As the poor lottery-adventurer, after receiving a sufficient number of blanks, sees his own folly, and is ready to hang himself for it; so was it with me, when I had read this note. My face burnt like wild-fire with rage and vexation: I beat my innocent forehead, with my hand, most unmercifully: and starting from my seat, paced the room with all the distraction of an unfortunate man who has lost his wits. Passion kicked reason fairly out of doors, and usurped her seat. I had not the least command over myself, but, on the contrary, was a meek slave to anger; and I truly think, if any one had come near me whilst I was in this pickle, I should have made him heartily repent his intrusion. Indeed, it was extremely galling to reflect, that Fortune, whom I had never wittingly offended, should play me so many villainous tricks, in so short a space. Not only to balk me in my highest hopes, but also to connive at a base sharper's gulling me.—Malicious jade! what delight canst thou find in

pestering a set of wretches who are too impotent to retaliate thy cruel jokes ?

I looked upon myself as sold past all redemption ; and I would gladly have exchanged conditions with the poorest and raggedest mendicant that walked the streets. ‘ Is it possible,’ thought I, ‘ that such inhumanity, ingratitude, and villainy, can exist in the world ? For what purpose are we born ? Is it to cheat, deceive, and juggle one another ? Would to heaven I had given the two guineas to the good old soldier ! They would, perhaps, have made him and his poor little family happy for many days. But to think that I have robbed a generous, worthy, noble, and tender-hearted man, to supply the wants of an unjust scoundrel—’

Here my phrenzy worked itself to such a pitch, that I was almost ready to tear the flesh off my bones ; and had not a violent shower of tears come to my relief,

I might possibly have done something not altogether consistent with the maxims of self-love.

What followed, is written at full length in the next chapter, to which I refer the reader.

CHAP. VIII.

Which is not much longer than the preceding one, but well crammed with sound historical matter.

NOW that my affliction had found a vent, it discharged itself so rapidly, and in such heavy torrents, that the contending passions, exhausted by their own fury, stood, as it were, gasping for breath, and were all very willing to patch up a peace. But to speak without allegory, I became, in a little while, as calm as ever I had been in my life; and recollecting the other letter, which, in the height of my fume, I had thrown upon the floor, I instantly picked it up; and, though I did not expect to reap a morsel of benefit from its contents, I broke it open with a good deal of eagerness.

Merciful providence!—I was electrified with surprise; for the very first thing that

caught my eye, when I had unfolded it, was a bank-bill of twenty pounds. I perceived also a bit of cotton-wool, which, supposing that it came there by mere accident, I was going to fling into the fire; but feeling that it was somewhat hard, and unnaturally heavy, I set about examining it; and here I received another shock, more violent, if possible, than the first: for what, in the name of all that's marvellous, should I extract but a handsome diamond-ring! Thanks to my own good caution.

I began to rub my eyes very heartily, unwilling to believe what they told me; but after looking at the bill and ring alternately, for the space of five minutes, I was perfectly assured, that neither they had deceived me, nor that I was in a dream.

Overcome with joy and astonishment, I stood a long time motionless on the spot; but, at length, recovering myself,

I had immediate recourse to the letter, in order to make myself acquainted with the cause of these phenomena. It ran as follows :

“ My very dear sir,

“ After what has passed between
“ us, it would be a mark of the grossest
“ hypocrisy to apologize for the freedom
“ I am *now* taking; and it would certainly
“ ly argue no less deceit, were I to write
“ in a stiff and prudish style to one who
“ knows so much of me. If our accidental
“ meeting at the inn near Lincoln
“ were productive of any thing that we
“ have both occasion to be ashamed of——
“ but, lord! what am I saying? I write
“ as though we were old cronies. I was
“ going to accuse you of a crime that——
“ that—upon my soul, I don't know what
“ to say!—In candid truth, I am the only
“ guilty person; and in order to appease
“ the offended Diana, I'm afraid I must
“ wear the veil for a whole twelve-month.
“ I hope you will pardon this nonsense,

“ my dear sir! I am but a vain, giddy,
“ conceited creature,—scarce worth your
“ notice. But if you knew what I now
“ suffer for your sake, I am sure——no,
“ no,—I mean, I think you would pity
“ me. You will do me the favour to ac-
“ cept the enclosed trifle. I wish I could
“ send you more; but to tell you the
“ truth, I am but in low water at present.
“ I trust you will not take my officiousness
“ in dudgeon. To deal plainly with you,
“ sir, I am under a conjecture that you
“ are a little pinched in pocket; but I
“ sincerely wish I may be wrong. At all
“ events, my dear sir, you are at full li-
“ berty to dispose of the money as you
“ think fit. You will find a ring, wrap-
“ ped in a little wool: this I beg of you
“ to wear, for the sake of her who would
“ freely die to—to—to——you may guess
“ what I mean. I would not make such
“ a frank declaration as this, I assure
“ you, if I had not the greatest depen-
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decent posture of living, that I came to this resolution, I will not pretend to say ; neither will I aver, that *fate* had any thing to do with it : but so it was.

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“ *Northampton, Oct. 12th. 1797.*

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“ I arrived safe at this place early
“ yesterday evening ; and I have just-now
“ finished business with the two gentlemen
“ to whom you were pleased, in your
“ great goodness, to recommend me. I
“ waited upon Mr. Fribbler first, who
“ behaved to me with scarce common
“ civility : from that, you may easily
“ guess what was the result of my visit.
“ I found Mr. Cute at his vault, who,
“ when he had read your letter, flew into
“ such a great passion, and swore so ma-

“ my terrible oaths, that I was really afraid
“ the whole building would tumble down
“ upon our heads. A greater reprobate,
“ I think, human nature never produced ;
“ and I am sure, my dear master, you
“ would think so too, if you had heard
“ him. He said, you meant to impose
“ upon his good-nature ; and so loaded
“ you with the heaviest reproaches. I
“ have not a very strong patience, but
“ if I had had the patience of Job, his
“ impudence, I am certain, would have
“ made a breach in it. I don’t know
“ whether I was right or not, but I took
“ him up rather sharply ; and gave him
“ to understand, that he was a very un-
“ friendly man. I have often heard you
“ say, sir, that a young man should never
“ fly in the face of his elders ; but I give
“ you my word and honour, I did not
“ speak to him without great provocation.
“ Nay, I am almost confident, that even
“ you, whom it will be no flattery in me
“ to call the mildest man in the world,
“ would have taken much umbrage at

“ him. What I said, however, had like
“ to have been of serious consequence;
“ for, in the violence of his rage, he cast
“ a large bottle at my head, accompanied
“ with a volley of curses; but, happily,
“ it did not do the least execution: yet,
“ if I had not taken to my heels, he
“ would have tried to have made amends
“ for its failure with a huge fire-poker.
“ It is with the greatest concern, my dear
“ father, (for so I may, with the strictest
“ justness, call you) that I tell you, I
“ cannot prevail upon myself to obey the
“ injunction which you laid upon me, be-
“ fore I quitted you. I have been a leech
“ too long already: I have preyed upon
“ your goodness most unconscionably: but
“ rather than oppress you more, I have
“ resolved to throw myself on the mercy
“ of the world. May heaven, in its boun-
“ teous grace, reward your past toils with
“ the choicest blessings; and so crown
“ your life with years, that you may re-
“ sign your last breath without a groan.

“ Forgive this hasty step ; and believe me,

“ Honoured sir,

“ Your humble, affectionate,

“ And most grateful servant,

“ GODFREY RANGER.

“ P. S. I have received an almost incredible kindness at the hands of an entire stranger, which, I trust, will enable me to get into bread.”

I now got change for the twenty pound bill, and enclosed one half of it in the letter, which, having sealed and directed it, (and, by the bye, put the ring upon my finger, according to orders) I carried immediately to the post-office.

This done, I strolled, for upwards of half an hour, about the town, and was returning to the inn, when I suddenly perceived, on the opposite side of the street, a great throng of people, gathered round a gentleman's door. I directly crossed over to them (for we are all prone

caught my eye, when I had unfolded it, was a bank-bill of twenty pounds. I perceived also a bit of cotton-wool, which, supposing that it came there by mere accident, I was going to fling into the fire; but feeling that it was somewhat hard, and unnaturally heavy, I set about examining it; and here I received another shock, more violent, if possible, than the first: for what, in the name of all that's marvellous, should I extract but a handsome diamond-ring! Thanks to my own good caution.

I began to rub my eyes very heartily, unwilling to believe what they told me; but after looking at the bill and ring alternately, for the space of five minutes, I was perfectly assured, that neither they had deceived me, nor that I was in a dream.

Overcome with joy and astonishment, I stood a long time motionless on the spot; but, at length, recovering myself,

I had immediate recourse to the letter, in order to make myself acquainted with the cause of these phenomena. It ran as follows:

“ My very dear sir,

“ After what has passed between
“ us, it would be a mark of the grossest
“ hypocrisy to apologize for the freedom
“ I am *now* taking; and it would certainly
“ argue no less deceit, were I to write
“ in a stiff and prudish style to one who
“ knows so much of me. If our accidental
“ meeting at the inn near Lincoln
“ were productive of any thing that we
“ have both occasion to be ashamed of—
“ but, lord! what am I saying? I write
“ as though we were old cronies. I was
“ going to accuse you of a crime that—
“ that—upon my soul, I don’t know what
“ to say!—In candid truth, I am the only
“ guilty person; and in order to appease
“ the offended Diana, I’m afraid I must
“ wear the veil for a whole twelve-month.
“ I hope you will pardon this nonsense,

“ my dear sir! I am but a vain, giddy,
“ conceited creature,—scarce worth your
“ notice. But if you knew what I now
“ suffer for your sake, I am sure——no,
“ no,—I mean, I think you would pity
“ me. You will do me the favour to ac-
“ cept the enclosed trifle. I wish I could
“ send you more; but to tell you the
“ truth, I am but in low water at present.
“ I trust you will not take my officiousness
“ in dudgeon. To deal plainly with you,
“ sir, I am under a conjecture that you
“ are a little pinched in pocket; but I
“ sincerely wish I may be wrong. At all
“ events, my dear sir, you are at full li-
“ berty to dispose of the money as you
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Jenny did not seem to mind their contumely; and I had too much upon my hands, I assure thee, reader, to be in the least discomposed with it.

When I had got her upon her feet, the good people made way for us sharply enough; and we passed through them, amidst the grating music of double-bass groans, and tenor squawls.

Luckily, I had brought the stout crabstick that the brave old soldier had given me, out with me. By cutting a few handsome flourishes in the air with this, I kept the mobility within the boundaries of their tongues; that is to say, I deterred them from using any manual violence.

However, before we had walked twenty yards, a fellow, more daring than the rest, came behind Jenny, who was leaning upon my arm, and seized hold of her petticoats, with an intent to throw them over her head, but I was too sharp for my hero;

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“A’n’t you a pretty spark?” cried the two-handed fellow, coming up to me;—
“A’n’t you a pretty spark, I say, to come here with such a trolloping wench as that? If you wanted a bit o’ snug, couldn’t you have found a different sort of a place? Let me tell you, Mr. Coxcump, my neighbour here is as honust and upright a womand as any in this county, and the next county to’t; and if you don’t walk quietly out of the door, I’ll throw both you and your w—e through the window. Come, get off your b—h, young master! or I’ll ruin your windpipe, d—n me, if I don’t!”

“Well, Mister Bullyrag,” cried the landlady, with a flouting grin, “you’ll make me repent, will you? I know’d I should tell you what o’clock it was!”

“Really, good woman,” said I, very calmly, “your behaviour is surprising!”

“Susprising or not susprising,” bawled

she, "you needn't think o' staying here. Out you shall go, as sure as my name's Elizabeth Windle! I'll ha' no caterwauling in a house o' mine;—no, beli' me wont I!"

"Come, jump upon your feet!" cried the man, with a gruff menacing look,—
"jump upon your feet directly! I'll be cursed, if I stand prating to you much longer. I tell you, for good and all, if you don't love to have your throat clawed, jump upon your feet, and march out!"

"Do but listen to me for one short minute, good people;" said I, rising from my seat, "and if what I shall say does not satisfy you, we will go out, wet as it is, without further bidding. It is not on my own account, but for the sake of this poor girl, who is almost at death's door, that I desire to stay. I have known her for several years, and, I assure you, she has seen much better days. You are sensible, that there is no guarding against misfor-

tunes ; and for aught we can tell, one, or all three of us, in a few years' time, may be brought to the same miserable pass. How extremely cruel and inhospitable should we then think that person who denied us a temporary shelter ! As to your suspicion, only look at the poor creature again ! and if your eyes and reason have not a mist before them, you will instantly see the absurdity and injustice of it. Humanity, surely, will not allow you to turn her out of doors in all this rain ! Consider her distressful condition : do not, for pity's sake, add to her wretchedness ! Let me entreat you not to persist in your uncharitable resolution ! Suffer us but to stay until the violence of the shower is abated, and I will reward you handsomely."

So great was the influence of the three last words—"reward you handsomely," that their savage frowns, which the whole preceding part of this speech had only served to render more severe, were chan-

ged, in the twinkling of a star, into smiles of hospitality and good-will.

“Why, to be sure,” cried Mrs. Windle, in a far different style to that which she had before spoken in, “what your honour says is very true: and when gentlemen behaves like gentlemen, I always likes to act like a lady. Nobody can say, that I ever ill used any living soul upon God’s earth, if I know’d the top and bottom o’ matters. It’s a rule wi’ me, always to do as I’d be done unto; and I’m sure I’ve christin charity for all men. As your honour says, there is no guarding ’gainst misfortin: and, as your honour says again, all of us three may fall into some miserable piss. The full belly doesn’t know what the hungry one wants, as the saying is: but the Lord forbid, that I should ever shut the door in any mortil parson’s face! hey dear! if I was to do such a barbaruss thing, I think, i’ my conscience, I should never be right settled, or ha’ a morsil o’ comfort, to th’ hour o’ my death. Her

ladyship there is as bad as bad can be,—that she is: and I'm sure it is n't fit to turn a dog out. God sends rain, and somebody else sends washerwomen. But that's neither here nor there. Let every tub stand on it's own bottom. Her ladyship, as I was saying, looks like death upon a mop-stale; and your honour too looks as if you was in a kind of rickety flusteration.—Lord-a-mercy, this is a peppering shower, i'faiks!—Talk of going!—Heaven save you, you should'nt stir out for the world,—no, that you should'nt.”

“ I thought your honour was a gentleman,” cried the gigantic hero, following the example of the good woman; “ that I did, as soon as ever I set my eyes on you. I should be sorry to give any bad language to my betters; but one doesn't know what one does sometimes. I am always ready to take a neighbour's part, and to help a body out of a quagmire: thof one should surtainly look at a business both inside and out, before one med-

dles in't. There isn't a man i'th' univur-sul world can tap me upon the shoulder, and say, Matthew, you're a backbiter; and I'm confidant I never gav any one a mouthful of ill, o' my own accórd, in all my born days. I'm as peaceable a man, though I say it that shouldn't say it, as ever broke bread and eat it; and if I thought I'd a saucy tongue in my head, I'd cut it out; yes, I'd cut it out, marry would I, as soon as look at it!—Your honour is the most kindest and most generous gentleman I ever met with, for saying—your honour smells what I mean. I'm sure I didn't expect any thing;—but for that matter, I shall be umply sadisfied wi' the valiation of half-a-crown or so."

Thus did this honest hostess and her trusty myrmidon wheel about, and assume new characters.

I gave, foolishly gave, the fellow three shillings on the nail, which he conveyed

into his pocket handily enough; and after he had thanked me, and made me an hypocritical bow, he stalked out of the house.

As for the good landlady, she could not think of taking a farthing more than seven shillings from me; saying, that she loved *square-dealing* above all things in the world.

The pint of wine, for which, by the bye, I paid a good round price, was now served up to us with the utmost dispatch; and the whole house put on an appearance of cheerful urbanity.

I made Jenny swallow a hearty bumper; and afterwards took one myself.

The poor girl felt the good effects of it in a very short time. It not only roused her from the dull torpid state into which her malady had thrown her, but caused the sickly paleness of her countenance to

be suffused with a small portion of red. Her eyes, which were before like two dead bullets, began to emit a faint lustre: her voice shook off its tremulous weakness, and grew somewhat firm: and after making me all the warm acknowledgments in her power for what I had done, she caught eagerly hold of my hand, and in the height of honest gratitude, pressed it to her lips.

While she was doing this, the scrupulous landlady, who stood not a great way from us, opened her eyes to the back, and, as I fancied, cast rather a distrustful look at me; but whatever were her thoughts, she kept them to herself; that is to say, she kept her tongue, which was a weapon that she wielded with uncommon skill, fast between her teeth.

By that time that we had drank up the remainder of the wine, the rain had ceased; so we took our leaves of the worthy woman, who was very free with her curt-

sies and good b'yes ; and Jenny conducted me the nearest way to her habitation, which was a miserable-looking cellar in the outskirts of the town.

The wavering goddess, however, before she parted with us, took it into her head to crack another of her vexatious jokes upon us.

When we had got within a few doors of the place of our destination, a large mastiff, that had been on the proggng account, whisked sharply by us, with a fine shoulder of mutton in his mouth ; and was not far short of throwing Jenny upon her back. Presently after, a fat broiling butcher, in his shirt-sleeves, turned the corner, in red-hot pursuit of the four-legged thief, foaming at the mouth like a furious bull, and muttering hoarse and horrid curses,—curses that would have scared St. Lucifer himself. In his right hand, which was dried with blood, he held a weighty cleaver, and in his left a steel ;

both which he brandished in a warlike, or rather in a madman-like, manner.

We soon met him full in the face; but instead of passing by us, he made a sudden halt before me, and fastening his eyes, which struck fire with rage, upon me, exclaimed in a fierce, though out-of-breath style, "D—n your liver and lights, why didn't you stop that dog?"

"How was it possible for me to stop him, good man?" cried I, very gravely; "You know very well he went at too great a rate for that."

"D—n your eyes and limbs then," cried he; "stand out of my way! What, in the name of h—ll, did you stop me for, you beggarly thief?"

With these words, he caught me an unmannerly knock upon the left shoulder, with the back part of his cleaver.

I could have borne the abuse of his tongue with tolerable patience; but a blow was past all bearing. Nettled to the very heart, I broke from Jenny in a moment, and paid my respects to him with my crabstick.

He was a very hale man, 'tis true; but if his carcass had been as formidable as Goliath's, he should not have put such an affront upon me with impunity. I returned his favour so liberally, and with such good-will, that he began to yell like a drubbed dog; crying, "Oh, C—st, will you murder me, you cut-throat? Will you beat my brains out, you villun? D'ye want to look into my skull, you bloody-minded bull-calf?"

In a few minutes, we were surrounded by a great number of people, who, after they had parted us, as 'tis called, must needs enquire the occasion of the fray.

The butcher, thrashed as he was, got

the start of me; and told them a tale of a tub, how he was coming peaceably by me, and I set upon him as if I had intended to murder him.

The crowd swallowed this lie with good appetites, and unanimously agreed, that I should be well ducked for my pains. And they certainly would have executed this their sentence without mercy, had not a well-dressed man stepped before me, and harangued them to this effect.

“Hark ye, gemmen! If it be against the Constitution of this land to hang a man without judge or jury, it is a hellish piece of injustice, let me tell you, to lay violent hands on this young gentleman, without examining both sides of the question. You have taken in every syllable that that there pitiful pig-killer has told you, and not even asked the accused person, what he had to say for himself. Now, how do you know but that he could have shewn you sufficient testimony, had

you permitted him to make a defence, that the plaintiff had imposed an unconscionable falshood upon you? Consider, gemmen, that you are in England, a free country, where a poor fellow in rags may bring the finest lord that ever walked to justice, if he has done him an injury: consider this, I say; and if you do not then see the dishonesty of your procedure, I'll tell you to your teeth, you have not a drop of British blood in your veins, and are only fit to live under an absolute government. By good providence, gemmen, I was stood hereabouts when the affair began; therefore, you will allow, it is in my power to give you a good account of it. To tell you the simple truth, that lying butcher, saving his presence, was in pursuit of a dog, that had stolen from his stall a shoulder of mutton, with the implements which you now see in his hands. The dog passed by this young gentleman, who was walking by the side of that poor woman (pointing towards Jenny): and the said lying butcher, com-

ing up to the said young gentleman, asked him, with a great oath, why he did not stop it? The said young gentleman made the said lying butcher a very civil and reasonable answer; but the said lying butcher, not content with this, up with his cleaver, and rapping out another big curse, struck the young gentleman afore-said an unmerciful blow upon the shoulder. Whereupon, the said young gentleman, taking fire, attacked the head of the said lying butcher with his stick; and he certainly would have paid him home, if you, gemmen, had not interfered. This is the whole truth of the matter; and if the gentleman must be punished for what he has done, there is an end of all equity, and *lex talionis* may go to the devil."

This speech, which was delivered with great emphasis and caustic warmth, directly turned the tables.

The conscientious crowd, without much

regularity, formed a ring round the poor butcher, and declared, one and all, that he should undergo the same penalty that they had designed for me; *viz.* ducking. They, accordingly, seized him by the hair, throat, and b—ch, and carried him, out of hand, to a water-trough hard by, clapperclawing him all the way with—"Ay, d—n you! we'll cure you of lying, you jolly dog!—We'll make you eat your dinner with a relish!—We'll give you a rare appetite, my cock o' wax!—We'll cool your blazing chops for you, d—n you, will we!"

With what kind of fortitude the poor fellow bore this homespun punishment, or whether he suffered it at all, I am at a loss to know. To say the truth, I had not the unfeeling curiosity to follow this swarm of busy-bodies, being strongly persuaded, in my own mind, that I had repaid his courtesy to the full extent, if not overpaid it.

Having given a sufficient number of hearty thanks to my deliverer, whom I took to be an attorney's clerk, I rejoined the trembling Jenny, who led me into her subterraneous dwelling, which, as I have before noted, was only a few doors off, without further obstruction.

To paint the wretchedness of this place in its true colours, would be a matter of no small difficulty. The steps that led into it were so numerous, so slippery, and withal in such a decayed state, that a stranger going down them in the dark, would have stood a very fair chance of having his neck broken. The walls within, from which a black fetid dew was constantly distilling, did not want any thing to recommend them to a nice antiquary, but a few carved figures. The window, for there was only one, was besmeared all over with mud, and so cruelly shattered by time, and some mischievous two-legged animals, as to keep the steps in good countenance. The floor, which was a

bottom of sound English clay, had no other defects besides unevenness and a few small pits, some of which were full of water. The fire, which was next door to stark out, was not in a grate, but upon the bare ground, after the Welsh fashion. In one of the corners of the cellar, lay a sack of straw, a soldier's jacket, a pair of ragged breeches, and a filthy blanket; all which composed the hapless Jenny's bed. In another corner was an old mouldy beam; and in another, a heap of faggots. Near the fire-place stood a small deal-table, sufficiently ancient and crazy; on one side of which was a chair without a back to it, and on the other a lame and decrepit stool. Over the chimney-piece hung a large frying-pan, which was neither free from holes nor rust. A little under this there was a kind of shelf; upon which were placed an old broken plate, a pitcher without either spout or handle, a tea-pot-lid, and a smoked basin. And these, I believe, were all the goods that the poor creature was mistress of.

The length of this unsightly kennel was about six yards, the breadth about four ; and the height of it was such, that a man measuring five feet good, might possibly have walked upright from one end of it to t'other, without any fear or hazard of thumping his head against the ceiling.

Jenny, having, with some trouble, lit a match, fetched an armful of fuel out of the corner, and by the aid of a pair of bellows, that were made simply of brown paper, had soon a good fire.

When she had made me as comfortable as a good inclination and scanty power could make me ; that is to say, when I had seated myself properly by the fire, and snuffed up a little of its warmth, she broke forth into such expressions of gratitude, as had like to have put me to the blush.

“ Oh, Mr. Ranger,” said she, “ how ill do I deserve this kindness at your

hands! Surely, no one, in the whole world, but you, would have walked through the public streets with such a wretch as I! and none but you, I am certain, would so humble themselves, as to sit with me in this mean filthy place. You are the last person upon earth, from whom I should have expected a tithe of this goodness. Oh, when I bring back to my mind the many base stratagems which my headlong, my lustful desires urged me to plan, in order to decoy you; when I consider how bravely you repulsed my several obscene attacks; how reluctantly you at last submitted:— Oh, when I consider all this, my poor penitent heart is ready to break. Why, why did I make your innocence the sacrifice to my wantonness? Cursed be the first thought that led me to it; and doubly cursed be that hour in which I compassed my ends.—If, by praying upon my bended knees, both day and night, for your happiness, I could atone for the injury—but, alas, how vainly do I speak! Heaven would not listen to my prayers!

No, no ; I have forfeited its divine regard for ever. Oh, Mr. Ranger, you know not how heinously I have sinned ! My crimes are without number, and of the blackest kind : but that one, which relates to you, I assure you, has caused me more affliction than all the rest. I can never—never forgive myself for it,—indeed I cannot !”

Emotion here stifled her utterance, and she presently burst into a flood of tears.

I told her, by way of consolation, not to speak to me any more on that theme ; for that I had, long since, buried every thing that had passed between us at Lincoln, in the deepest oblivion.

As soon as she had dried up her tears, and recovered her voice, she tickled my ears with a thousand gracious—I mean, flattering sayings, which I have neither the vanity nor the impudence to write :

and after we had spent a good half hour in some inconsiderable and unsavoury discourse, I requested her, if it would not be too much trouble, to relate her history to me; in other words, to make me acquainted with the occasion of her present unhappy condition.

She replied, that whatever pangs some parts of the relation might cost her, she would freely gratify my wish. And, accordingly, after looking, for a few minutes, in the fire, she cleared her voice with two or three hems, and began, as is written in the next chapter.

CHAP. X.

The Story of Jenny Philips.

‘ FROM the many strange accidents that
‘ have befallen me, my dear Mr. Ranger,
‘ in the short period of two years, some
‘ superstitious people would be apt to think,
‘ that the state of complicate misery in
‘ which you now see me, was not entirely
‘ the work of folly and imprudence, but
‘ that an evil Genius had a hand in it. But
‘ if I had no more reason to arraign my
‘ own conduct, and that of a few of the
‘ human species, to whose vile arts I have
‘ been a dupe, than I have a supernatural
‘ being, I should not now be so hateful
‘ to myself, and despicable in the eyes of
‘ my fellow-creatures. If my discretion
‘ had been as firm as my constitution was
‘ warm, if I had followed the virtuous
‘ precepts of my venerable parents, I had
‘ never, never come to this.

‘ I might have lived in possession of every
‘ happiness but riches: and what are they ?
‘ What joys can they purchase, that are half
‘ so sweet and solid as those which an honest
‘ heart at ease feels over a crust of bread ?

‘ I will not, however, take up your time
‘ with hackneyed remarks.

‘ It will be needless for me to tell you the
‘ cause of my quarrel with my worthy old
‘ master, Mr. Prosody: you know it too
‘ well already. You also know, that I left
‘ him at a minute’s warning; and that I
‘ quitted Lincoln in two days after. Suffice
‘ it then to say, that I was received by my
‘ poor father and mother, who then rented,
‘ and still continue to rent, a farm of six-
‘ teen acres, about three miles hence, with
‘ open arms. So rejoiced, indeed, were
‘ they to see me, that I had been under
‘ their roof several hours, before they
‘ thought of enquiring the reason of my
‘ unexpected visit.

‘ I was under some apprehension, that
‘ their pleasure, when they knew I had
‘ left my place for good, and was come to
‘ them, not as a mere visitor, would be
‘ changed into dissatisfaction and ill-hu-
‘ mour, and that bitter chidings would
‘ immediately follow. But, to my un-
‘ speakable joy, they listened to me with-
‘ out betraying any marks either of anger
‘ or surprise ; and when I had told them
‘ the whole truth, (for I did not attempt
‘ to represent matters in a more clear and
‘ favourable light on my own side, than
‘ what they really were) they both fell
‘ upon my neck at once, and kissed me
‘ with the greatest tenderness.

‘ You may guess, sir, how deeply this
‘ unlooked-for behaviour affected me. I
‘ assure you, it was as much as I could do
‘ to refrain from tears.

‘ My brother and sister, who had never
‘ known what it was to live from home,
‘ spontaneously followed the generous

‘ example of their parents; and were,
‘ by no means, sparing of their caresses.
‘ In short, my family’s joint treatment of
‘ me was such, that I had no cause but
‘ one to regret the accident that had sent
‘ me to them : and that was——dare I tell
‘ it you?—Oh, it was——pardon the
‘ confession!—it was yourself. So stub-
‘ born was I in my guilt; so lost to every
‘ sense of modesty.

‘ It is impossible to describe the pains
‘ my good father and mother took to
‘ make me comfortable. But, indepen-
‘ dent of their kindness on this occasion,
‘ I had every reason to believe, that I was
‘ the favourite child: for although their
‘ behaviour to my brother and sister was
‘ truly parental, yet they had not taken
‘ near so much care of them in their in-
‘ fancy as they had of me, nor shewn
‘ them so much indulgence.

‘ At the age of nine, I was sent to an
‘ eminent boarding-school in Stratford,

‘ where I continued for upwards of six
‘ years: and while I was, all that time,
‘ making myself into an accomplished
‘ lady, my poor brother and sister were
‘ toiling and doing all manner of drudge-
‘ ry at home: A sufficient instance, I
‘ think, to prove in which scale the par-
‘ tiality of my parents lay.

‘ When I had finished my schooling, I
‘ was, in my own opinion, the most con-
‘ summate young Miss in the world ; and
‘ I returned home with a very strong as-
‘ surance, that my friends would be won-
‘ derfully surprised at my erudition ; and
‘ that the parson’s daughters would ap-
‘ pear, in point of elegance, mere cy-
‘ phers to me.

‘ Though full of life and fire, I was far
‘ from being an hoiden ; and was exceed-
‘ ingly nice in the selecting of my ac-
‘ quaintance.

‘ Whenever any honest neighbours

‘ came to sit an hour with my mother, I
‘ was certain to trip up stairs into my
‘ bed-room, and shut myself up, till such
‘ time as they took their leaves, for fear
‘ of having my ears offended, forsooth,
‘ with low rusty expressions.

‘ I was so stiff in my gait, and arrogant
‘ in my carriage, that I brought upon
‘ myself the malice and ill-will of the
‘ whole female-part of the village. They
‘ used to call me, out of ridicule, lady
‘ Jenny, the princess of Morocco, and
‘ many other big names. Indeed, I gave
‘ myself such airs as did not, in the least,
‘ become a poor farmer’s daughter; and
‘ I am very sensible, that I deserved, and
‘ richly too, every taunt I received.

‘ I passed two years in almost perfect
‘ idleness; and now my parents be-
‘ gan to see, that my fine accomplish-
‘ ments would do me no kind of good.
‘ They lamented that they had not brought
‘ me up in the same humble manner as

‘ they had, done my brother and sister ;
‘ and I myself grew heartily weary of
‘ sitting with my hands before me. To
‘ say the truth, I did not meet with the
‘ respect, or get the adulation, I had pro-
‘ mised myself ; so my pride was grievous-
‘ ly hurt : and I resolved, rather than stay
‘ in a place where I was so lightly thought
‘ of, to go out to service. I accordingly
‘ unbosomed myself to my father and
‘ mother ; and they were not at all dis-
‘ pleased to hear, that I had got the bet-
‘ ter of my lofty notions, and fixed on an
‘ employment that was a little more con-
‘ sistent with my circumstances, than that
‘ of a delicate lady.

‘ My indulgent father came regularly
‘ twice or thrice a week to Northampton,
‘ purposely to look out for a place for
‘ me ; but his efforts, for a long time,
‘ proved ineffectual. However, he, at
‘ last, saw an advertisement in the Lin-
‘ coln paper, stating, ‘ That an elderly
‘ gentleman of that place wanted an ac-
‘ tive girl, to keep his house.

‘ He came home full hot with this ; and
‘ I wrote and dispatched a letter, without
‘ delay ; which was answered, in a few
‘ days, by the gentleman himself, the
‘ worthy Mr. Prosody.

‘ But I am taking you backward and
‘ forward, my dear Mr. Ranger, to no
‘ purpose. Pray, pardon me ! I am leath
‘ to enter upon the criminal part of my
‘ story ; yet I must fulfil my promise.

‘ Well, sir, I told you how joyfully I
‘ was received, after leaving my place,
‘ by my family : indeed, no description
‘ can equal their goodness. They all de-
‘ clared with great warmth, that they
‘ would, on no account whatsoever, part
‘ with me again ; alledging, that, as they
‘ had increased the number of their cows,
‘ they could now find plenty of employ-
‘ ment for me. Agreeably to this, my
‘ mother immediately consigned the whole
‘ management of the dairy to me ; and I
‘ was, in a short time, complete mistress
‘ of my business.

‘ A country life, which I had before no
‘ great relish for, now appeared really
‘ charming ; and I passed on my time in
‘ an exceedingly agreeable manner.

‘ That ridiculous, I may say, inexcusa-
‘ ble haughtiness which had formerly
‘ brought me into distaste with the neigh-
‘ bouring females, I had, by dint of some
‘ serious reflection, utterly divested myself
‘ of ; so that I had the satisfaction to hear,
‘ that I was well spoken of ; I mean, that
‘ I had the people’s love in as great a de-
‘ gree, as I had before their grudge. I
‘ joined in every rustic wake with the great-
‘ est willingness ; and if the meanest clown
‘ in the village solicited me to dance with
‘ him, I never was so cruel as to refuse
‘ him. In a word, I was now so compli-
‘ ant in my temper, and humble in my
‘ behaviour, that I was treated with un-
‘ common courtesy wherever I went. I
‘ had friends, both of my own and the
‘ other sex, without number ; and if there
‘ happened to be any dispute or bickering

‘ betwixt two persons, or more, I was
‘ generally appointed umpire, an honour
‘ which I was not a little vain of.

‘ I went constantly to church every Sun-
‘ day, both forenoon and after; though,
‘ perhaps, like most good christians, more
‘ to see and be seen, than out of motives
‘ of religion

‘ I had the misfortune, one time, to
‘ meet the squire of the parish there; a
‘ man of very loose morals, extensive
‘ property, and great interest in the
‘ country. Such was his lust, that if he
‘ took a liking to a woman, no matter
‘ whether she was married or single, he
‘ would enjoy her at any rate; and he car-
‘ ried on his amours with such little caution,
‘ that they were generally public enough.
‘ I believe, there was hardly a female in
‘ the whole place, who had any preten-
‘ sions to beauty, that he had not trepan-
‘ ned. His fondness for wine was no less
‘ ardent, than his fondness for women.

‘ In short, a more profligate character
‘ cannot be conceived: and had not his
‘ money spoken powerfully in his favour,
‘ he would have been universally detested.

‘ To see him enter a church-door was a
‘ wonder of no small account; for which
‘ reason, when he came in the morning I
‘ was there, the congregation lifted up
‘ their hands, and whispered one another,
‘ that the ’squire was certainly going to
‘ die.

‘ He placed himself in a pew directly
‘ opposite to that in which I sat; and
‘ after he had looked, in a very curious
‘ manner, round the church, he fixed his
‘ eyes steadily upon me, and scarce ever
‘ removed them, from the moment the
‘ clergyman began to read prayers, till
‘ he had finished his sermon.

‘ Being no stranger to his debaucheries,
‘ I put on as severe a countenance as I
‘ possibly could; but he had dealt too

‘ often with womankind, to let looks discourage him.

‘ Service over, he followed me close down the aisle, and spoke something in my ear that I did not plainly understand ; and when I had got into the church-yard, he put his arm round my waist, in the face of all the people, and looking impudently under my bonnet, asked me, in a blunt accent, if I would take a walk with him ?

‘ To this familiar question I made not the least reply, but did all I could to rescue myself. But he held me so fast, that I saw it would be impossible for me to get away from him by fair means : so I told him, with great spirit, that if he did not immediately release me, I should certainly resent his impudence in a manner that he little dreamed of.

‘ He laughed at my threat, and began to be excessively rude ; I, therefore,

‘ with the hand that was at liberty, struck
‘ him a violent blow in the face ; which
‘ instantly made him leave loose of me.
‘ He did not attempt to pursue me again,
‘ but struck across the church-yard, ap-
‘ parently in a great passion ; and I made
‘ all the haste I could home.

‘ My father and mother, when I had
‘ acquainted them with the rencounter,
‘ enjoined me not to go to church in the
‘ afternoon, for fear the libertine should
‘ lay a trap for me. But I told them,
‘ they had no occasion to apprehend any
‘ thing of that kind ; for that I thought
‘ he would not have courage enough to
‘ attack me openly again, after what I
‘ had done to him ; but that even if he
‘ had, I was sure the people would not see
‘ me used ill ; and as for snares, it would
‘ be entirely my own fault, if I fell into
‘ any.

‘ My father, however, still remonstra-
‘ ted against my going ; but I was obsti-

‘nate. The truth is, there was a grand
‘anthem to be sung that afternoon; and
‘as I was remarkably fond of music, I
‘was determined not to debar myself
‘from the pleasure of hearing it, let what
‘would happen.

‘To church then I went; and to my great
‘satisfaction, the dissolute ’squire did not
‘honour us with his presence. The clergy-
‘man preached a very good sermon, and
‘the singing charmed me beyond descrip-
‘tion.

‘Just as I was opening the pew-door,
‘after service, an elderly woman, in a
‘black gauze-veil, came hastily up the
‘aisle, and stopping before me, asked me,
‘with much disorder of voice, if my name
‘was not Philips? I told her it was.
‘“Then,” said she, “if you have a mind
‘to see your father before he dies, you
‘must not lose a moment’s time, but
‘follow me.”

‘ You may think, sir, how violently this
‘ dreadful news, as I had left him in per-
‘ fect health, afflicted me. I was too
‘ much shocked to ask any questions; and
‘ I followed the woman, who was an en-
‘ tire stranger to me, without delay, as
‘ she had ordered me.

‘ She led me speedily, and without ut-
‘ tering a word, through two or three by-
‘ lanes; and in a few minutes, we arrived
‘ at the gate of a gentleman’s house,
‘ which, to my unutterable disturbance
‘ and surprise, I discovered to be the
‘ squire’s.

‘ My conductress pulled up the latch
‘ of the gate in a great hurry, and told
‘ me to make haste after her, for that
‘ every moment was precious. But, instead
‘ of obeying her, I stood still; for, I must
‘ confess, I began to suspect, that she had
‘ told me an untruth, and that she was
‘ going to betray me to the squire, at his
‘ immediate instigation.

‘ She directly saw my backwardness to
‘ follow her, and, therefore, with a look
‘ full of profound solemnity, thus ad-
‘ dressed me.

‘ “ Ah, child ! I know all the thoughts
‘ that are now passing in your mind ; but let
‘ them not take hold of you : they are
‘ very wrong ones believe me. Unjust
‘ suspicions are ten times worse than un-
‘ just actions, child. You fancy, I know
‘ you do, that I am employed by the
‘ squire to deliver you into his hands ;
‘ but you are egregiously mistaken, child.
‘ I can say, with a safe conscience, that I
‘ only wish to deliver you into the arms of
‘ your dying father. It was very silly of
‘ you, child, to strike the squire as you
‘ did this morning, in the church-yard.
‘ He is a very passionate man, and will
‘ never pardon an insult ; inasmuch as he
‘ sent for your poor dear father to his
‘ house, whilst you were at church, and
‘ ran him through the body with a sword.”

‘ My apprehensions, with regard to any
‘ machination, were now perfectly allay-
‘ ed. I did not scruple another moment,
‘ but followed her, trembling with horror,
‘ up the garden.

‘ She opened the house-door without
‘ knocking, and closed it very softly.
‘ She then bade me, in a low voice, not to
‘ make a noise with my feet, and hurried
‘ me up stairs into a small bed-room,
‘ where, after placing me in a chair, she
‘ left me.

‘ No sooner had she disappeared, than
‘ I heard her whispering to some one upon
‘ the stair-case ; and before my mind could
‘ form a single thought, the libidinous
‘ ’squire rushed in upon me like an hun-
‘ gry lion, and seizing hold of my arms,
‘ dragged me quickly off the chair.

‘ You cannot conceive, my dear Mr.
‘ Ranger, how much I was confounded.
‘ The licentious wretch vented nothing

‘ but obscenity ; and took such liberties
‘ with me, as decency will not allow me
‘ to mention..

‘ Consternation, for a moment, depri-
‘ ved me of every faculty. He pulled
‘ me, in a very rude manner, towards the
‘ bed ; but, regaining a little of my
‘ strength, I began to struggle with him ;
‘ and as his excessive irregularities had
‘ impaired the power of his body even
‘ below effeminacy, I presently disengaged
‘ myself.

‘ The monster, upon this, ran furiously
‘ to the door, which he immediately locked ;
‘ and putting the key in his pocket, at-
‘ tacked me again, with redoubled des-
‘ perateness and indelicacy.

‘ Had I been my proper self, I do not
‘ doubt but I should have proved too many
‘ for him ; but he grasped me by the neck
‘ so savagely, that the little strength I had
‘ just recovered, forsook me again.

‘ Uttering a string of lewd curses, he
‘ took me round the waist, and threw me,
‘ in the most ungentle manner conceiva-
‘ ble, upon the bed. But while he was
‘ preparing to complete his infernal pur-
‘ pose, I happily recollected, that I had a
‘ clasp-knife in my pocket, which I con-
‘ trived to draw out and open, without
‘ being observed by him, for, thinking
‘ his conquest secure, he had left loose of
‘ me; and springing suddenly up from the
‘ bed, I clapped it to his breast, and vow-
‘ ed, that if he did not instantly give me
‘ the key of the door, I would stab him to
‘ the heart.

‘ At this denunciation and the sight of
‘ the naked knife, the debauched villain
‘ turned as pale as ashes, and started
‘ several paces back. Though my legs
‘ could scarce support me, I followed him
‘ boldly, and repeated my demand with
‘ great peremptoriness. As he possessed
‘ as little courage as modesty, he pulled
‘ the key out of his pocket, and threw it,

‘ without speaking a word, upon the floor.
‘ I gathered it up in a moment ; and fly-
‘ ing to the door, let myself out. The
‘ dastard did not make the least attempt
‘ to stop me, but, on the contrary, stood
‘ like a statue, with his eyes steadfastly
‘ fixed on the ground.

‘ I had no sooner reached the landing
‘ of the stairs, than the base wretch who
‘ had misled me, burst sharply out of a
‘ room, and running before me, made an
‘ effort to seize me. ~~Exasperation and~~
‘ revenge took immediate possession of
‘ my heart ; and just as she was going to
‘ lay hold of my arm, I plunged the knife
‘ deep into her detestable bosom. She
‘ gave a faint scream, and sunk lifeless
‘ at my feet. I flew out of the house
‘ without delay, and made the best of my
‘ way home : but how I got there, feeble
‘ and perplexed as I was, I know not.

‘ Before I could answer any of the
‘ questions which my family, who were

‘ greatly terrified at my strange appearance, asked me, I fell into a swoon ;
‘ and when I came to myself, I found
‘ them all in tears.

‘ They renewed their enquiries with the
‘ greatest earnestness ; which, as soon as
‘ I was able, I satisfied in every particular. My father, who was a very passionate man, was inflamed beyond all
‘ measure. Such, indeed, was his rage,
‘ that if we had not held him fast, it is
‘ impossible to tell what lengths it would
‘ have carried him to. The murder of the
‘ squire would, perhaps, have been the
‘ consequence.

‘ Several friendly neighbours, who had
‘ been drawn by our cries, did all in their
‘ power to pacify him ; but he was, for a
‘ long time, deaf to their entreaties ;
‘ struggling, by starts, to break loose
‘ from us : however, he, at last, lent an
‘ ear to the voice of reason, and grew
‘ gradually calm.

‘ Far from condemning me, for having
‘ wreaked my vengeance in so exorbitant
‘ a manner, on the impious woman who
‘ had betrayed me, every one extolled it
‘ as an heroic action, and cheered me up,
‘ by saying, that the laws both of God
‘ and man would acquit me.

‘ The affair was very soon spread
‘ abroad ; so that we had visitors in abun-
‘ dance. Some urged my father to pro-
‘ secute the ’squire without delay : other
‘ some advised him to compound with
‘ him : but most gave it as their opinion,
‘ that he ought to shoot him. In short,
‘ sir, he had so many different advisers,
‘ that he did not know what step to take.’

Here Jenny broke off her narrative rather abruptly, and complained of being thirsty. Upon which, I ran directly to the first tavern at hand, and presently returned with a pint of sherry ; of which, without diluting it, I made her, and myself, by the bye, take a good draught.

She confessed, that she was highly refreshed ; and, in a little time, proceeded as follows.

-CHAP. XI.

The Story of Jenny Philips continued.

‘ **T**HIS was the most melancholy Sunday
‘ I had ever known ; and I do not think
‘ any of my family ever experienced such
‘ a one before. Indeed, we had every
‘ reason to be unhappy : for now that the
‘ confusion of my mind was reduced to
‘ some order, and the tempest of theirs
‘ appeased, we reflected on the murder I
‘ had committed, with horror ; and the
‘ apprehensions of what might result from
‘ it, tended, in a great measure, to in-
‘ crease our distress.

‘ Late in the evening of the same day,
‘ as we were all sat in gloomy discourse
‘ round the fire, we were suddenly sur-
‘ prised by a violent knocking at the
‘ door, which my mother opened with
‘ some degree of fear, and, to our great
‘ astonishment, in came the squire ; who,

‘ approaching my father with a penitent
‘ face, spoke to this purport :

‘ “ I am grieved, Mr. Philips, very much
‘ grieved, that I should have caused you
‘ and your family this uneasiness. Upon
‘ my soul, sir, I did not think matters
‘ would have ended so crossly as they have
‘ done. I have a hot constitution, sir,—
‘ a very hot constitution ; and my passions,
‘ sir, are sometimes very turbulent. But
‘ I hope, sir, we shall be able to accom-
‘ modate matters. Your daughter is a
‘ pretty sort of a young woman ; and I
‘ should be sorry to hurt a hair of her
‘ head in my cool moments. As for the
‘ old woman whom she stabbed, do not
‘ trouble yourselves about her. I have
‘ had a surgeon from Northampton to her,
‘ who has pronounced her out of all man-
‘ ner of danger.”

‘ The satisfaction which appeared in all
‘ our countenances at this unexpected
‘ news, made the squire stop short ; but

‘ before he had paused the length of a
‘ minute, my father desired him to proceed.

‘ “ If I am a man fit to be belived, Mr.
‘ Philips,” continued he, with seeming
‘ gravity; “ I have felt very uncomforta-
‘ ble ever since the affair happened; so
‘ uncomfortable, sir, that I would give,
‘ any moment, a thousand pounds to be
‘ myself again. However, it is never too
‘ late to mend, they say; and to shew
‘ you, sir, how much I repent me of the
‘ injury I intended to do your daughter, I
‘ will take her into keeping, and allow
‘ her five hundred a year for pin-money;
‘ upon my soul, I will: and moreover,
‘ sir,——”

‘ “ Hold, hold, Mr. Acherly!” cried my
‘ father, with great indignation; “ not so
‘ fast, if you please. I am poor, ’tis true;
‘ but I am not so poor but that I can keep
‘ myself and family from being dishonest.
‘ You surely are come, sir, for the purpose
‘ of insulting me, and not of making
‘ amends for what you have done.”

“Insulting you?” cried he; “God forbid that I should insult a man in his own house. You seem to be a solid old gentleman,—and——”

“I am no gentleman, sir:” interrupted my father; “I am only a poor hard-working man; but I won’t be trampled upon for all that.”

“And do you really think, sir,” cried the squire; “that a girl would dishonour her family, by putting herself in pawn for five hundred a year? There are many ladies in London, let me tell you, and very fine ladies too, who would do it for a fifth part of that sum. Besides, sir, consider what power I have in the country! I will make her into a lady, sir; and I will put you into a fair way of making a rapid fortune. In short, sir, if you don’t stand in your own light, I will do numberless kind things for you all.”

THE HISTORY OF

‘ My father replied, with great warmth,
‘ that if I were too humble to be his wife,
‘ I was infinitely too good to be his mistress.

‘ “ I look upon a mistress, neighbour
‘ Philips,” cried the profligate; “ to be
‘ equally as good as a wife. The ceremo-
‘ ny-of marriage is arrant nonsense; and
‘ as for a tie, I should be just as true
‘ without one as with one. Your daugh-
‘ ter, sir, has taken hold of my heart;
‘ and if you will consent to place her out
‘ at interest,—I mean, to let me have her
‘ on the terms I have mentioned, I will
‘ translate you, in a few days, to a farm
‘ of two hundred acres, and stock it for
‘ you.”

‘ “ Hark ye, Mr. Acherly!” cried my
‘ father, in a firm and resolute voice;
‘ If you were the king of England, and
‘ would heap all your treasury upon me,
‘ you should not have my poor girl at the
‘ price of her good name. No, sir; your
‘ offer I despise: and if you persist in

‘affronting me in this gross manner, neither the consideration of your influence, nor your wealth, shall deter me from shewing you my resentment.’

“Nay, sir,” cried the squire, changing colour, (for, I really believe, he is the greatest coward in the world) “there is no compulsion: you are at liberty to use your own discretion. I only wish to make you sensible of my penitence. Since you are determined not to let me have your daughter, I beg, sir, (drawing out a purse of gold) that you will accept of this as a compensation.”

“Pray, put up your money, sir!” said my father; “I do not want that, I assure you. If your repentance be sincere, I am satisfied; if not, and you attempt to molest or annoy my child again, in any manner whatsoever, you may depend upon it, that I will bring you to justice, though it cost me my all.”

‘ The ’squire vowed, that I should receive no further harm from him ; and
‘ returning the purse into his pocket,
‘ took his leave.

‘ When the people knew that my father
‘ had shewn him such lenity, they were
‘ far from being pleased ; saying, that if
‘ I had been a child of theirs, they would
‘ have had him fast in prison, before sunset. Nay, some of them were bold
‘ enough to declare, that if he did not
‘ immediately prosecute him, they would
‘ renounce all neighbourly society with
‘ him for ever. But my father was too
‘ good a man to recede from his word :
‘ and in two or three days, all was so still,
‘ that nothing of the kind might have
‘ happened.

‘ A little more than a month had slipped away after this, when I and two of
‘ my companions, unhappily made it up to
‘ go to a concert together, which was held
‘ quarterly at the sign of ———, in this
‘ place.

‘ As the distance was but short, the
‘ weather very fine, and the moon at the
‘ full, we purposed to return home the
‘ same night. Accordingly, having ob-
‘ tained leave of our friends, we got an
‘ early tea, and set out. And they being
‘ as great lovers of music as myself, our
‘ eagerness carried us into the room a full
‘ half hour before any one made their ap-
‘ pearance.

‘ When the concert began, a gentle-
‘ man, who sat upon the next bench
‘ behind us, very politely accommodated
‘ us with a bill of the performance, and
‘ was remarkably assiduous to please us.
‘ He not only loaded us with fruit and
‘ sweet-meats, but also with a number of
‘ fine-turned compliments, which made
‘ us all sufficiently proud : and as soon as
‘ the first part was over, he called for a
‘ bowl of negus, of which he easily pre-
‘ vailed upon us to partake. Indeed, it
‘ would have been a piece of rudeness, if
‘ not ingratitude, after the great kindness

‘ he had shewn us, to have made any objection at all.

‘ The whole of his attention, during the second part, was firmly rivetted on me. My companions were soon sensible of the change, and looked very much mortified. They became exceedingly reserved in their behaviour all at once; and when I spoke to them, they answered me in a very tarty manner.

‘ The gentleman, who had really a most fascinating address, whispered innumerable pleasant things to me, and, when he had an opportunity, squeeze me tenderly by the hand. My ears were completely enraptured: the music was delightful; and what he said was equally so. My vanity was quickly in a blaze of enchantment: the flame extended itself rapidly to my heart, which began to beat and flutter violently; and I felt—I know not what.

‘ Immediately after the last chorus was
‘ sung, the gentleman, in the most grace-
‘ ful manner imaginable, spoke to us all
‘ three to this effect :

‘ “ Your residence, I presume, ladies, is
‘ in the country ? Pardon my familiarity,
‘ but if you will accept of a bed at my
‘ house, I shall consider myself as highly
‘ honoured. This offer, owing to my being
‘ a stranger to you, will, no doubt, ap-
‘ pear singular ; but be assured, ladies,
‘ you will be as secure as if you were at
‘ your own homes. It is not proper for
‘ you, indeed, it is not, to travel the lanes
‘ by yourselves, at this late hour. You
‘ don’t know what hazards you will run.
‘ The country, hereabouts, is very much
‘ infested with highwaymen. There are a
‘ thousand other things to be considered
‘ too. You may possibly get violent colds,
‘ and be laid up for many weeks. Upon
‘ my soul, ladies, I only speak for your
‘ own good. Let me entreat you to em-
‘ brace my invitation ! You will not re-

‘pent in the morning, I give you my
‘word.”

‘My two friends, without thanking him
‘for his civility, sharply replied, that no
‘consideration whatever, should induce
‘them to stay.

‘“Very well, ladies,” returned the gen-
‘tleman, “I will not urge you. By all
‘means do what you think is best for
‘yourselves.”

‘Then turning to me, he added, with
‘a sigh and a languishing look, “I hope,
‘madam, you will not make so imprudent
‘a resolution. What say you? Must I
‘be favoured with your company?”

‘My face glowed like fire: I hung
‘down my head; and gave my consent
‘with silence. His insinuating address,
‘and the ‘concord of sweet sounds,’ had
‘perfectly intoxicated me. I knew not
‘what I did: I was transported, as it were,

‘ from myself: and when he put my arm
‘ within his, I had not the power to with-
‘ draw it.

‘ We now left the room with the rest of
‘ the company; and as soon as we had got
‘ out into the street, the gentleman once
‘ more asked my two friends, though in a
‘ cool manner, if they would stay? They
‘ absolutely refused.

‘ “ Well, have your own way, ladies:”
‘ said he; “ I would not, on any account,
‘ detain you against your will. But since
‘ your companion seems desirous to stay,
‘ I beg you will indulge her so far.”

‘ They made him a short pert answer;
‘ and began to remonstrate with me on my
‘ irresolute behaviour. Oh, Mr. Ranger!
‘ they were prudent; but I, like a wild
‘ spendthrift, was guided entirely by folly.
‘ From remonstrances, they went to bitter
‘ reproaches; and, at last, declared, with
‘ great heat, that I was just as able to walk

‘home as they were, and that if I did not
‘go, I might rest assured they would em-
‘broil me with my parents, before they
‘slept. But nothing—nothing could re-
‘store me to myself. I was in a delirium,
‘or rather in a trance. They repeated
‘their threat in a harsh and vehement
‘tone, and casting a scornful look at me,
‘betook themselves away.

‘The gentleman (I call him gentleman,
‘because his air and dress denoted him to
‘be such; but heaven knows what a
‘wretch he is!) carried me to a house, ‘tis
‘true; but not to his own. No, no; it
‘was one of those in which modesty and
‘innocence can live but a short time. In
‘plain language, sir, it was, as I after-
‘wards discovered, a brothel. He called
‘the woman who kept it, his mother; and
‘they conversed, and treated each other
‘with so much familiarity, that there was
‘not the least room for me to suspect any
‘thing.

‘ He gave her to understand, that I was
‘ a particular friend of his; and that
‘ meeting with me at the concert, he had
‘ invited me, as I lived a long way in the
‘ country, to a bed. She, at first, affected
‘ great surprise, which was mixed with
‘ some degree of displeasure; but when
‘ she had heard him to an end, she bright-
‘ ened a little, and said, “ Well child, I
‘ am not against giving a night’s lodging
‘ to the young woman. It is very late, to
‘ be sure, and the moon is overcast.”

‘ They both pressed me to take supper,
‘ which I did; and afterwards made me
‘ drink several glasses of a strong cordial,
‘ which was, in colour, like Port-wine,
‘ and which had a most strange effect upon
‘ me. You may easily guess, my dear
‘ sir, what followed.

‘ Oh, how unworthy was I the tender
‘ care which my excellent parents had ta-
‘ ken of me! What a shameful return
‘ was this, for all their affection and indul-

‘ gence ! How vainly had they spent their
‘ money upon my education, when two
‘ simple girls could outvie me in discre-
‘ tion !

‘ Before the morning dawned, I had
‘ recovered a sufficient portion of my rea-
‘ son to make me the most unhappy being
‘ in the world. I saw my guilt in all its
‘ enormous shapes. Good heavens ! what
‘ would I have given, to have been in my
‘ own bed at home ? I may truly say, the
‘ whole universe, if I had had it. My
‘ heart was filled with the bitterest remorse,
‘ and the pillow on which I lay, was not
‘ long dry : for although I did all I could
‘ to smother my affliction, it burst through
‘ every barrier, and flowing rapidly to
‘ my eyes, gushed out in the heaviest tor-
‘ rents that can be conceived.

‘ My undoer, who was then in a pro-
‘ found sleep, was soon awoke by my
‘ sobs ; and clasping me fondly in his
‘ arms, entreated me to acquaint him with

‘ the cause of my sudden grief. But he
‘ entreated in vain. I could not utter a
‘ word: the rising gusts almost choked
‘ me. Seeing, therefore, that I was quite
‘ incapable of making a reply to his ques-
‘ tion, he caught me eagerly by the hand,
‘ and with an ardent squeeze, and a voice
‘ full of tender sympathy, spoke to me
‘ after this manner :

“ My sweetest girl ! if you knew how
‘ severely your distress tortures me, I am
‘ certain you would strive to restrain it.
‘ Whatever be the occasion of it, rest as-
‘ sured, that you will find in me a gener-
‘ ous protector, a protector who will bring
‘ you through every trouble or peril that
‘ threatens you, at the hazard of his life.
‘ So far from regarding last night’s ad-
‘ venture as an unhappiness, you ought
‘ to rejoice at it, child ; for by meeting
‘ with me you made your fortune. You
‘ shall no longer languish in mean obscu-
‘ rity : charms like yours should never be
‘ lost. Let not any apprehensions, with

‘ respect to your two ungracious compani-
‘ ons hurting you with your parents, dis-
‘ turb you in the least. I can never, never
‘ consent to part with you ! No, no ; you
‘ must not think of returning home, my
‘ dear girl ! Upon my soul, I shall run
‘ distracted if you do. To shew you how
‘ desperately I dote upon you, I will this
‘ very day take a house for you, and fur-
‘ nish it with all the elegance you can de-
‘ sire. You shall not know a single want,
‘ if I can help it ; nor have a wish that I
‘ will not satisfy. In short, you shall live
‘ as happily as love, constancy, and a full
‘ purse, can make you.”

‘ This soothing speech, though it effec-
‘ tually suppressed my tears, was but of
‘ trifling comfort to my mind, which still
‘ remained in a state of absolute despair.

‘ When I was able to make myself un-
‘ derstood, I told him, that if it were in
‘ his power to promise me a palace, and
‘ I could place the firmest reliance on

‘ that promise, I would not be detained
‘ from going home.

‘ He endeavoured, first by argument,
‘ and then by entreaty, to dissuade me
‘ from this resolution ; but I shut my ears
‘ against every thing of that kind. So,
‘ finding that it would be impossible for
‘ him to carry his point, he contented
‘ himself with asking me, if I would come
‘ back to him, should my parents receive
‘ me unkindly ?

‘ To this, after some hesitation, I gave
‘ a slight, or rather dubious consent ;
‘ which, however, pleased him greatly :
‘ nay, I am certain he could not have
‘ shewn stronger evidence of satisfaction,
‘ had I given him the most solemn pro-
‘ mise ; for he instantly threw his arms
‘ about me, and embracing me with in-
‘ describable warmth, fervently declared,
‘ that if he had the empire of the world
‘ at his disposal, he would joyfully create
‘ me queen of it.

‘ As soon as the day broke, he retired
‘ to his own chamber, as he called it ;
‘ previously telling me, that his mother
‘ (meaning the woman of the house) was
‘ a very early riser ; and that she made a
‘ common practice of speaking to him,
‘ before she went down stairs.

‘ I shall not attempt to describe what I
‘ felt from the time he left me, till I arose.
‘ It would, indeed, be a task too difficult
‘ for so weak a capacity as mine. Let it
‘ suffice, that my sufferings could not
‘ possibly have been greater than they
‘ were.

‘ I would, with my own good will, have
‘ departed immediately after I got up ;
‘ but neither my lover, nor the person
‘ whom he called his mother, would, by
‘ any means, allow me, until I had taken
‘ breakfast.

‘ Not to trouble you, my dear sir, with
‘ immaterial circumstances,—after the

‘ former had reminded me, secretly, of
‘ what he had asked me in bed, and
‘ obliged me to recapitulate my promise,
‘ I took my leave, and walked home,
‘ with the heaviest heart I had ever car-
‘ ried in my life.

‘ The looks of my family, when I en-
‘ tered the house, manifestly shewed in
‘ what channel affairs ran ; and my blushes
‘ and swoln eyes at once testified my guilt
‘ and repentance.

‘ Trembling with fear and shame, I
‘ approached my poor father, and casting
‘ myself at his feet, ardently besought
‘ his mercy and forgiveness.

‘ He regarded me, for some moments,
‘ with a wild stare ; and then, catching
‘ me in his arms, called me his dear child,
‘ and wept aloud. But this effusion of
‘ affection lasted but a short time. He
‘ suddenly stopped his tears and lamen-
‘ tation, and struck his forehead violently

‘ with his hand. His lips quivered like a
‘ leaf that is disturbed by the wind ; his
‘ eyes flashed fire ; the colour forsook his
‘ face ; and breathing nothing but exe-
‘ crations, he threw me outrageously on
‘ the ground.

‘ I was so hurt by the fall, for my head
‘ struck against the leg of a table, that I
‘ fainted dead away.

‘ When I returned to life, and had
‘ raised myself from the floor, I saw that
‘ the violence of his passion was not in
‘ the least abated ; on the contrary, my
‘ mother, brother, and sister, were hold-
‘ ing him down in a chair ; for he had
‘ seized hold on a brass candlestick, with
‘ an intent to throw it at me.

‘ My mother, who was as pale as death
‘ with fright, looked tenderly upon me,
‘ and cried, in a faint voice, “ For God’s
‘ sake, child, go ! Do not stay to be
‘ killed ! ”

‘ Although the disquietude of my mind
‘ had made me utterly insensible of dan-
‘ ger, and I considered my life as barely
‘ worth preserving, I followed her advice,
‘ and tottered out of the house.

‘ Did I deserve this treatment, Mr.
‘ Ranger? Oh, yes,—yes.—Had it been
‘ ten times more severe, my crime would
‘ not have been sufficiently punished.
‘ Wretch that I was, to bring disgrace
‘ and misery on my poor, though worthy
‘ family! Oh, the remembrance of that
‘ day wounds me to the soul! The scene
‘ is now as fresh in my mind, as if it had
‘ but just been acted. I see my father
‘ standing before me in all the agonies of
‘ grief and rage! and my poor unhappy
‘ mother!—Pardon these tears! alas, alas,
‘ I cannot bear the thought!—It is too
‘ painful, too distressing,—indeed, it is.’

Here Jenny stopped, to give vent to
her grief; which when she had done, she
again asked my pardon, and proceeded.

‘ Faint and dejected, I bent my steps
‘ to a neighbouring house, which I was
‘ going to enter, when the people, to my
‘ unspeakable mortification, shut the door
‘ violently in my face ; saying, that they
‘ would countenance no strumpets there.
‘ I tried to get admittance into several
‘ other houses, but received equal, if not
‘ more, cruelty and contempt from them
‘ all. From which, I evidently saw, that
‘ my two friends had spared no pains to
‘ accomplish my destruction.

‘ What could I do ? what plan devise,
‘ to extricate myself from this labyrinth
‘ of woe ?

‘ You will not be surprised, sir, when I
‘ tell you, that indiscretion, which was
‘ ever the principal ingredient in my
‘ character, stood my adviser, and brought
‘ me back to Northampton.

‘ I immediately repaired to the house
‘ in which I had lain.

‘The old woman played her part so
‘much to the life, that if I had had any
‘suspicions that she was not the person
‘whom she pretended to be,—I mean, the
‘mother of him that was, in a great mea-
‘sure, the author of my distress, I am
‘thoroughly persuaded they would have
‘been removed. She seemed to be as
‘much amazed, when she opened the door
‘to me, as if she had seen the strangest
‘creature in the world.

‘“Bless me!” said she, lifting up her
‘hands; “are not you gone home, young
‘woman?”

‘Before I could speak a word in reply,
‘(for I was, as you may imagine, sir,
‘greatly confounded) she artfully cried,
‘“Oh, dear, what a memory I have! I
‘crave your pardon, child! My son told
‘me he expected you back. I had really
‘forgot. You have employed him against
‘a person who owes you some money, I
‘understand? (For you must know, sir,

‘ that he is no less than an attorney.)
‘ Well, he will do his best for you, you
‘ need not fear. Pray, walk in, child ;
‘ and I will send to his office for him.”

‘ As soon as I had sat me down, she
‘ dispatched her handmaid ; who returned
‘ in a few minutes, with the gentleman at
‘ her heels.

‘ You can have no conception, sir, of
‘ the pleasure which appeared in his coun-
‘ tenance, when he entered the room ;
‘ nor of the ardour with which he shook
‘ me by the hand.

‘ The old woman soon left us by our-
‘ selves ; saying, as she went out, that she
‘ never liked to listen to business that did
‘ not concern her. And now he gave a
‘ full loose to his joy. He caught me ea-
‘ gerly in his arms ; pressed me to his
‘ bosom ; and after planting a thousand
‘ burning kisses upon my lips, cried out,
‘ in the ecstasy of his heart, “ Oh, my

‘ adored angel ! now thou hast made me
‘ happy, indeed ! I swear, I would not
‘ forego my lot for that of the greatest
‘ king in the world. With thee, I could
‘ make myself content in a crib : without
‘ thee, a palace would be a den. Oh,
‘ hadst thou not returned to me, my dear
‘ girl, I should inevitably have destroyed
‘ myself ! I could not, indeed, have sur-
‘ vived the loss of thee ! Death would
‘ have been my only resource : for thou
‘ hast given me a wound which nothing
‘ but thy smiles can heal.”

She was proceeding to repeat some other red-hot compliments which he made her, when a large paving-stone came—crash—through the window, and flew, whizzing, over our heads. As I was, at the time, paying very strict attention to her, it startled me to a violent degree : and Jenny, I believe, thought the roof had been tumbling about her ears ; for she leaped suddenly from her seat, and ran screaming towards the door. I directly

flew out into the street, with my crab-stick in my hand, in order to try if I could see any thing of the worthy person to whom we were indebted for this extraordinary act of civility, that I might return him my acknowledgments ; but I might have saved myself the trouble : for, whoever he was, he had, like a good christian who does not bestow favours out of *ostentation*, betook himself away, to avoid the confusion which our gratitude might have thrown him into.

Jenny, having set her fluttered spirits to rights with a sip of wine, went on with her story, precisely as 'tis written in the next chapter.

CHAP. XII.

Further continuation.

‘ I THINK, sir, I was telling you what my
‘ lover said to me. I assure you, I do not
‘ take any pleasure in mentioning such
‘ romantic stuff: no; I rather give myself
‘ pain by it: for vanity, which lit me to
‘ my ruin, and of which I had once as
‘ much, as perhaps ever fell to the share
‘ of a single woman, I have long since
‘ abandoned. I have learnt, by sorrowful
‘ experience, the great folly of it. The
‘ true reason of my repeating the decla-
‘ rations which he made to me on this
‘ occasion, is, that you may wonder the
‘ more at his villainy. But as the remain-
‘ der of them were wholly in the same
‘ strain, I shall pass them over in silence,
‘ and proceed to matters more interesting.

‘ He, agreeably to his promise, imme-
‘ diately took a small house for me, about

‘ a mile out of town ; and furnished it in
‘ a very neat manner. He also hired me
‘ a lusty girl, to act in the capacity of
‘ servant ; and, indeed, spared no ex-
‘ pence to make me fancy myself a lady.

‘ For two whole months, he was the
‘ kindest and most generous of lovers ;
‘ and was so very careful of my person,
‘ that he was almost afraid to let the small-
‘ est breath of air blow upon me. Did I
‘ but express a wish for any thing, he was
‘ certain to put me in possession of it, let
‘ it cost what it would ; and if at any time
‘ I complained of being unwell, he ap-
‘ peared very much hurt, and did all he
‘ could to comfort me. Yet, although he
‘ shewed me so many convincing proofs of
‘ his affection, I had but little of his com-
‘ pany ; three or four nights in the week,
‘ being all that he spent with me. He
‘ would often tell me, that he was mortifi-
‘ ed he could not visit me more frequently ;
‘ but that, on one hand, his mother was
‘ of a very suspicious turn, and, on the

other, his business prevented him. I easily believed what he said; and so made myself as happy, during his absence, (for I must candidly confess, I was extremely fond of him) as I could.

‘ In the course of this my prostitute life, I contracted an intimacy with a young lady of the name of Thornton, who was my next door neighbour; and as she was of a frank sprightly temper, and had a good deal to say for herself, I took great delight in her conversation. I often wondered though, in my own mind, how she could be so full of spirits: for she had lately been married to a gentleman, who, before the honey-moon was over, quitted her, without giving her a moment’s notice, and fled, as she afterwards heard, to America. He left her in very wretched circumstances, so wretched, indeed, that she had only what would support her, with the utmost œconomy, for a few weeks: and at the time I became acquainted with her,

‘ she had begun to sell and pawn her plate
‘ and clothes, as the last expedient to
‘ keep her from starving.

‘ Pitying her unhappy condition, for
‘ she made no scruple to disclose her se-
‘ crets to me, and as I was quite taken up
‘ with her company, I invited her every
‘ day to dinner ; and supplied her, *under*
‘ *the rose*, with money. By reason of my
‘ behaviour to her, she professed the
‘ warmest affection for me ; and would
‘ frequently say, that she hoped it would
‘ be in her power, some time or other, to
‘ evince her gratitude in a proper manner ;
‘ but that, at present, she could make me
‘ a tender of no more than her prayers
‘ and well-wishes. I always made answer,
‘ that I considered her friendship as a suffi-
‘ cient requital ; and that if I were able,
‘ I would do more for her.

‘ With so volatile a companion as this,
‘ it was not possible for time to hang heavy
‘ on my hands ; and the regard and faith-

‘fulness of my supporter continuing unabated, I soon recovered my usual flow of spirits.

‘It is with confusion and sorrow I own, that every tender thought of my family vanished on a sudden. I now saw things in a different light: my pride suggested to me that I had been shamefully used; and I upbraided my poor father, in idea, with injustice and barbarity. I piqued myself upon being so much above them; and was puffed up with the silly notion, that they would shortly have the mortification to see me riding in a carriage and four. But Fate had decreed, that I should not enjoy the ease and affluence of a lady long.

‘Coming one day to town a shopping, I learnt, by accident, two very disagreeable pieces of news. The one was, that the woman whom my keeper called his mother, was a lewd procuress, and the house in which I had lain, a notorious

‘brothel. The other was, that he had a
‘wife and several children.

‘I returned to my house in the utmost
‘consternation, and fretted myself with
‘a variety of unpleasant reflections.

‘He made me a visit that very night ;
‘and I received him so coldly, and with
‘such a supercilious air, that he could not
‘help perceiving the change in an instant ;
‘and, with a look full of disappointment
‘and surprise, he asked me in what he had
‘offended me. I did not pause a moment,
‘but acquainted him with all that I had
‘heard. At which he, at first, appeared
‘terribly fluttered ; but recovering him-
‘self, he assumed a mien of gaiety, and
‘vowed, that he had often intended to
‘make the discovery to me himself, but
‘had as often been deterred by the ap-
‘prehension that it would hurt my feel-
‘ings ; insinuating, at the same time,
‘that such disingenuousness was looked
‘upon, in the fashionable world, as highly

‘ essential to the preservation of love.
‘ He bade me think no more about it;
‘ and, indeed, tried his best to laugh it
‘ off; but it had made too deep an impres-
‘ sion upon my mind for that. I stormed
‘ about the house in a manner that I can-
‘ not well describe; and I loaded him
‘ with such a deal of abuse all the night,
‘ that he had but little comfort. He left
‘ me in the morning very early; telling
‘ me, as he went out, that he hoped I
‘ should not treat him quite so coarsely
‘ when he came again.

‘ From this time, he slackened very
‘ much in his endearments; his visits were
‘ less frequent; he seemed generally dis-
‘ contented; and was conspicuously re-
‘ miss in supplying me with the needful.
‘ In fact, I clearly saw, by his whole
‘ demeanour, that the period of my reign
‘ was at no great distance; but was re-
‘ solved, as he was the principal cause of
‘ my defection, that he should not shuffle
‘ me off at his own pleasure.

‘ At length, the looked-for day arrived,
‘ when he gave me to understand, in di-
‘ rect terms, that he could not maintain
‘ me any longer; alledging, as an excuse,
‘ that his business was sadly fallen away.

‘ I told him, with great indignation,
‘ that I knew very well he was tired of
‘ me. He replied, in a short evasive
‘ manner, “ Perhaps so.” I said, I was
‘ sure so. At which words, he broke out
‘ into a coxcomical laugh, and declared,
‘ that I had guessed perfectly right; for
‘ that he was heartily weary of me.

‘ This frank confession, though it did
‘ not injure my vanity, ruffled me to a
‘ great degree; for it cannot be supposed
‘ that I had lost every spark of affection
‘ for him. However, I did not let him
‘ see that I was in the least grieved; but
‘ told him, that since I had thrown myself
‘ out of house and home for his sake, I
‘ should certainly expect a comfortable
‘ annuity.

‘ He said, in a severe tone, that he was
‘ astonished at my impudence, and many
‘ other disobliging things; concluding;
‘ with a provoking sneer, that he con-
‘ ceived he had paid for my favours dearly
‘ enough already; and that he would not
‘ give me another farthing, if it would
‘ save my life.

‘ I could not contain myself any longer.
‘ I told him, he was the greatest villain
‘ in the world; and starting from my seat,
‘ loudly insisted on my demand; but he
‘ as loudly refused; saying that I was an
‘ unconscionable harpy, and that he had
‘ a great mind to horsewhip me. In short,
‘ sir, one word begat another; and our
‘ discord ran so high, that we had like to
‘ have gone to blows.

‘ He reviled me with all the names that
‘ passion and cruelty could invent, and
‘ I played hard upon his hypocrisy and
‘ mercenariness. At last, I threatened
‘ him, that if he did not instantly promise

‘ to satisfy my claim, I would, without
‘ fail, make my wrongs known to his
‘ wife; who, I was very confident, from
‘ the character I had heard of her, would
‘ redress them to my entire content.

‘ He changed countenance at this, and
‘ said, with much confusion of voice, that
‘ I surely would not be such a vile wretch,
‘ as to stir up dissension in his family. I
‘ assured him, that nothing should deter
‘ me, if he persisted in his denial.

‘ He seemed to be totally confounded,
‘ and quite at a loss for a reply. Many
‘ a time did he walk across the room, in
‘ sullen silence; and many a time did he
‘ essay to speak to me, but in vain. He,
‘ however, at last, with much ado, found
‘ just enough of his tongue, to tell me,
‘ that I should hear from him again short-
‘ ly; and taking his hat, he quitted my
‘ presence, with the utmost haste.

‘ Three days crept away, and I received
‘ no tidings from him.

‘ On the night of the fourth, as I was
‘ sat alone, (for my servant-girl was gone
‘ to spend an hour with her mother, who
‘ lived in the neighbourhood, and my
‘ friend was confined at home with the
‘ tooth-ache,) amusing myself with a vo-
‘ lume of one of our English Poets, I think
‘ it was Doctor Young’s Night-Thoughts,
‘ I was suddenly surprised by the appear-
‘ ance of three men in masks, who rushed
‘ into the house all at once; and ap-
‘ proaching me with pistols in their hands,
‘ which they clapped to my head, told
‘ me, in a gruff manner, that if I made
‘ the least noise or resistance, they would
‘ shoot me. Their threat was needless;
‘ for the sight of them had utterly deprived
‘ me of the power of speech, and, indeed,
‘ of every other power.

‘ Instead of beginning to plunder the
‘ house, for which purpose I really fancied
‘ they were come, one of them seized me
‘ by the hair, and dragging me off the
‘ chair, carried me in his arms to the sofa;

‘ upon which he tossed me in a brutal
‘ manner, and proceeded to use my per-
‘ son very indecently. I made the best
‘ use of what little strength I had left ;
‘ but the villain soon overpowered me ;
‘ and regardless of my condition, (for I
‘ was half dead with fright) ravished me.
‘ The other two, who were equally bar-
‘ barous, followed his example immedi-
‘ ately : and as soon as they had comple-
‘ ted this unheard-of act of atrocity, they
‘ began to gag me, and bind my hands
‘ and feet with a cord.

‘ At this juncture, my servant happily
‘ arrived ; I say happily, sir ; for the noise
‘ which she made in opening the lobby-
‘ door, so alarmed the rogues, that they
‘ quitted me in a moment, and made off
‘ through the window, in the greatest
‘ disorder.

‘ When the poor girl came into the
‘ room, and saw me in this dreadful situa-
‘ tion, she gave a loud scream, and fell

‘ flat upon the floor. But she soon came
‘ to herself, and ran, as fast as she could,
‘ to my relief.

‘ Having disengaged my hands and
‘ feet from the cord, and taken the gag,
‘ which was a sharp piece of iron, out of
‘ my mouth, she raised me up, and in-
‘ quired, with tears in her eyes, and a
‘ voice full of compassion, who had com-
‘ mitted the deed? I begged her, as
‘ plainly as I could, to ask no questions,
‘ but run, without delay, to my friend’s
‘ house, and tell her to come to me. She
‘ did not require a second bidding, but
‘ hastened out; and the lady, ill as she
‘ was, came with all possible dispatch.

‘ She sat down on the sofa beside me;
‘ and taking hold of my hand with tender
‘ eagerness, cried, “In the name of
‘ heaven, my dear friend, what is amiss?”

‘ As soon as my tongue was capable of
‘ performing its office in a proper manner,

‘ I informed her, in a few words, of all
‘ that had befallen me. She appeared
‘ deeply concerned for me ; and adminis-
‘ tered consolation with sisterly assiduity.

‘ She and my maid carried me to bed,
‘ at my immediate request ; for the villains
‘ had used me so infamously, that I was
‘ not in a condition to stay up. I entreated
‘ her to stop with me all night, to which
‘ she willingly assented ; and as she was
‘ a woman of great courage, she fetched
‘ a fowling-piece that her husband had
‘ left behind him, which she dexterously
‘ loaded, and declared, with uncommon
‘ spirit, that if the rogues should attempt
‘ to break into the house again, she would
‘ confront them herself. But we passed
‘ the whole of the night without being in
‘ the least disturbed ; so she had not an
‘ opportunity of displaying her heroism.

‘ I kept my chamber for more than a
‘ week ; and in all that time, my keeper,
‘ whose name was Fribbler——’

I interrupted Jenny, in this place, for the first time ; and the reader will not wonder at my doing so, if he has not forgot that he did lately meet with a gentleman of the same name, (not to mention that he was an attorney) who had a very oily tongue in his head.

She had no sooner uttered the word, than I started, as from a frightful dream ; and prayed her to tell me in what part of Northampton the gentleman lived. She answered, in some confusion, that his house was near Allhallows'-church. So, I was pretty confident that he and the Fribbler I knew, were one and the same person.

The suddenness of this discovery gave the woful muscles of my face such a twist, that Jenny, who had kept her eyes steadily upon me ever since I stopped her, asked me, hastily, if I knew the wretch ? I made her no direct answer, but requested her to proceed with her history ; which

she did, without troubling me with another inquiry.

‘ I believe, I was telling your, sir, that
‘ Fribbler (my blood goes cold, when I
‘ mention his detested name) never once
‘ came near me during my indisposition.
‘ Indeed, the day on which we quarrelled,
‘ was the last time I ever saw his face.

‘ I had now but a few shillings in the
‘ house ; I owed my servant a quarter’s
‘ wages ; I had contracted sundry small
‘ debts in the neighbourhood ; and how to
‘ discharge them I knew not.

‘ Remorse again took strongly hold of
‘ me ; and as I was not completely well
‘ of the injury I had received from the
‘ three villains, reflection soon brought
‘ my spirits into a state of utter despon-
‘ dency.

‘ I every day expected to see, or hear
‘ from, the faithless Fribbler ; but was

‘ disappointed in both. The menace with
‘ which I had, at our last interview, alarm-
‘ ed him, at length recurred to me.
‘ But could I, for the sake of gratifying
‘ my revenge, and exposing a shameless
‘ villain, make a worthy woman, (for
‘ such, I believe, is his wife) unhappy all
‘ the days of her life? No, Mr. Ranger;
‘ I was not so lost to the sense of compas-
‘ sion, as to do that. The thought had
‘ no sooner started in my mind, than I
‘ banished it,—for ever banished it; re-
‘ solving rather to die for want in the
‘ streets, than purchase a subsistence at
‘ the price of another’s peace: for I have
‘ not the least doubt but she would have
‘ done something for me, if I had been
‘ so inconsiderate, as to make the dis-
‘ covery to her.

‘ As I lay in bed, one morning, ab-
‘ sorbed in deep thought, my maid, con-
‘ trary to custom, entered the room with-
‘ out knocking; and coming hastily up
‘ to the bed-side, told me, with great

‘ wildness in her looks, that there was a
‘ poor woman below in violent grief, who
‘ wanted me upon business of the last
‘ importance. It immediately struck me,
‘ that it was my mother: so I jumped out
‘ of bed as quick as possible, huddled
‘ on my clothes, and in excessive agitation,
‘ both of body and spirits, hurried down
‘ stairs. But, to my no small disappoint-
‘ ment, my conjectures proved false.

‘ The woman, who was as entire a stran-
‘ ger to me, as she that betrayed me to
‘ the ’squire, and whose look was at once
‘ frantic and sorrowful, fell upon her
‘ knees before me, and in a tone of voice
‘ that corresponded every way with her
‘ countenance, implored me not to refuse
‘ her the request which she was going to
‘ make; for that if I did, she should not
‘ enjoy a moment’s peace the remainder
‘ of her life.

‘ Touched with her distress, I gave her
‘ my word, that I would grant it freely,

‘ if it were in my power, and desired her
‘ to name it, without reserve.

‘ The tears trickled fast down her
‘ cheeks ; and after venting a number of
‘ moving and heavy sighs, she spoke to
‘ me in the following manner :

‘ “ Ah, madam ! you now see before you
‘ the unhappy wife of one of those men
‘ who, some time ago, committed that
‘ shameful act of violence upon your per-
‘ son. For God’s sake, be merciful to
‘ him, that his poor soul may depart from
‘ the world in peace. Oh, madam ! if
‘ your heart be as full of compassion as
‘ your looks, I am sure you will abide by
‘ the promise which you did, in your
‘ goodness, just now make me. My un-
‘ fortunate husband (Heaven be gracious
‘ to him !) has not known a minute’s rest
‘ since the perpetration of the crime.
‘ His conscience pricked him so deeply,
‘ that he fell into a burning fever ; and
‘ he is now near his end. He unbosomed

‘ himself to me this morning for the first
‘ time ; and having told me where your
‘ house was, he earnestly desired me to
‘ fetch you to him. He says, he cannot
‘ die content, without hearing you pro-
‘ nounce his pardon : he has, besides, great
‘ discoveries to make to you. For mercy’s
‘ sake, do not refuse ! Oh, if you will
‘ go with me, madam, I will pray for you
‘ as long as I have breath ! and the Al-
‘ mighty, who never lets a generous ac-
‘ tion escape his notice, will reward your
‘ clemency according to its desert.”

‘ Notwithstanding I had been so often
‘ deceived, I did not start the least objec-
‘ tion, but put on my bonnet, and went
‘ out with her as I was,

‘ We arrived at her house, which was
‘ at the entrance of the town, in less than
‘ a quarter of an hour ; and I found the
‘ man, her husband, exactly in the state
‘ she had described him to be.

‘ When I approached his bed-side, he
‘ covered his face, which was as red as
‘ scarlet, with the sheet; and appeared
‘ so agitated, that I stepped aside for a
‘ few moments.

‘ His wife, in the mean time, having
‘ requested two women and a man whom
‘ we found with him, to walk into another
‘ room, he asked her, in a voice that was
‘ scarcely audible, where I was gone. I
‘ saved her the trouble of coming to me,
‘ by going immediately up to him.

‘ On my asking him how he did, he cast
‘ his eyes, which were dim and languid,
‘ sorrowfully upon me; and offering me
‘ his burning hand, begged that I would
‘ take a chair.

‘ I sat me down upon the bedstead; and
‘ after he had stared at me a considerable
‘ time, he asked me, if I could overlook
‘ the injury he had done me; the contri-

‘tion for which, he said, was the sole
‘cause of his present malady.

‘I told him to make himself perfectly
‘easy on that account, for that I forgave
‘him from my heart.

‘“Then,” said he, making his voice as
‘loud as he possibly could, and looking a
‘little more cheerful;—“then I shall die
‘in peace.”

‘After a short pause, during which his
‘wife lifted his head higher on the pillow,
‘and gave him a spoonful of medicine,
‘he spoke to me again, in these terms:

‘“Had it pleased God to prolong my
‘life, dear lady, nothing should have
‘been wanting to convince you of my peni-
‘tence. But death has already taken firm
‘hold of me: he pulls me to his chill em-
‘brace with a force that I cannot withstand.
‘Before many minutes are wasted, I am
‘inevitably his. Oh, that offence—that

‘ offence was heinous! Yet, I trust, the
‘ great, the heavenly Judge will be mer-
‘ ciful to my repentant soul.—The base
‘ plot was not of our own concerting: no,
‘ madam; we were bribed to treat you as
‘ we did by a wealthy scoundrel; I mean,
‘ Mr. Fribbler.”

‘ Oh, Mr. Ranger! how great was my
‘ surprise and horror on hearing this!
‘ My hair stood an end; the blood forsook
‘ my face; my heart shrunk within me;
‘ and I sat a long time without either sense
‘ or motion. For though I knew enough
‘ of him to satisfy me that he was a bad
‘ man, yet I did not think, that he was
‘ capable of such a consummate piece of
‘ villainy as that.

‘ When I had a little recovered myself,
‘ the poor man, who grew fainter and
‘ fainter, further informed me, that he
‘ and his infamous companions, had strict
‘ orders to carry me, as soon as they should
‘ have violated me, into a remote and

‘ lonely part of the country ; and leave
‘ me, without a rag to cover my naked-
‘ ness, in the open fields.

‘ He was proceeding to tell me, who
‘ the persons that were concerned with him
‘ in the rape, were ; but his voice and
‘ strength failed him all at once ; and
‘ making signs for something to drink,
‘ he sunk down in the bed.

‘ His wife ran for the cup with all ex-
‘ pedition ; but alas ! before she could
‘ get it to his lips, his eyes darted their
‘ last rays : a white froth oozed out of his
‘ mouth, his teeth clenched, and with a
‘ pitiable groan, he expired.

‘ The poor woman shrieked dreadfully,
‘ and fell upon the body in an agony that
‘ would have melted a heart of stone.’

CHAP. XIII.

The Sequel.

‘ **H**AVING called in the people to her assistance, and begged them to take care of her, I quitted this scene of distress, and walked speedily home, under a torturing and oppressive load of mournful thoughts.

‘ I communicated, without delay, what I had heard to my friend, and asked her, how she would have me to act.

‘ Her countenance, whilst I was speaking, did not alter in the least; and when she had heard me to an end, she said; “ What you tell me, my dear, does not surprise me at all; for, to confess the truth, I have long suspected, that Fribler was at the bottom of this impious business. The reason that I did not acquaint you with my suspicions was,

‘ because I was afraid you would think me
‘ too officious : but since you desire my ad-
‘ vice, I will give it you without restraint.
‘ You know, my dear, we have reposed
‘ equal confidence in each other, are privy
‘ to one another’s secrets ; and I may add,
‘ our interests in happiness are the same.
‘ Well then, in the first place, it is cer-
‘ tain, if you can procure evidence, that
‘ you have it in your power to punish the
‘ villain in an ignominious manner. It is
‘ alike undoubted, that you possess the
‘ means to make his pocket subservient to
‘ you. Now, which of these two, do you
‘ think, would content your revenge best ?
‘ By the former, you inevitably disgrace
‘ his innocent family : by the latter, you
‘ hurt no one but himself ; unless, indeed,
‘ you draw immoderately upon him. Pru-
‘ dence and mercy would counsel you to
‘ embrace the one ; headstrong passion
‘ and inveterate malice, the other. I
‘ would not, however, be thought to mean
‘ by this, that the crime does not merit the
‘ punishment which the law would inflict :

‘ on the contrary, I think, that a person
‘ could not be guilty of a much more
‘ atrocious one ; nor one which more truly
‘ deserves (murder excepted) a halter.
‘ Short as our acquaintance has been, I
‘ have discovered, that you have a heart
‘ perfectly free from oppression ; and I
‘ am very sensible, that you would let the
‘ injury you have received, pass unre-
‘ venged, rather than work the traitor’s
‘ subversion at the cost of his unoffending
‘ family.”

‘ I listened to this discourse very atten-
‘ tively ; and my friend looking at me for
‘ a reply, I told her, that with respect to
‘ not bringing him to public justice, I
‘ entirely coincided with her ; but that in
‘ the other instance, I dissented widely
‘ from her ; declaring, that it argued a
‘ weak, as well as sordid mind, to receive
‘ the means of support at the hands of a
‘ confirmed enemy.

‘ She employed all the force of her rhe

‘toric to bring me into her way of think-
‘ing, but ’twas to no purpose: I was
‘utterly inflexible; vowing, that whatever
‘might be the consequence, I would not
‘be further indebted to him the weight of
‘a hair.

‘“Really, my dear,” said she, in a
‘brisk manner, “you are too scrupulous!
‘I cannot see, that there is any thing
‘mean or unreasonable in deriving a
‘livelihood from the person who has en-
‘deavoured to make us lower than the
‘dirt on which we trample: nor can I
‘conceive, that there would be any obli-
‘gation on the side of the party injured,
‘even if he continued at the injurer’s
‘charge till the last minute of his life.
‘But, however, since my arguments are
‘too weak to divert you from your reso-
‘lution, which, I must say, is a very
‘impolitic one, I will not press you
‘any more, but make a fair proposal to
‘you.”

‘ She paused for a few moments, and
‘ then proceeded, with a gaiety of diction,
‘ which, in my present mood, was not
‘ very agreeable to me.

‘ “ Both our fortunes, my good friend,”
‘ said she ; “ are extremely desperate. I
‘ am a widow bewitched, and you are a
‘ lovelorn maiden. Now, what think you
‘ of disposing of our goods and chattels,
‘ as the lawyers call them, and making a
‘ bold push in the world ? Who can tell
‘ but that you may draw a good honest
‘ tradesman, a country squire, or an
‘ amorous heir, into the noose of matri-
‘ mony ? For my own part, you know,
‘ my love, I am done for in that point.
‘ But if you are prosperous, I am confi-
‘ dent you will not forget an old friend.
‘ Lord, child, don’t droop ! Give your
‘ heart fair play ! Would to heaven I
‘ could infuse some of my courage into
‘ you ! Have we not an extensive plain
‘ before us ? Are we not in the full bloom
‘ of youth ? With such advantages, ’twere

‘ absolute weakness to despair. Come,
‘ my dear, pluck up a heart of spirit ;
‘ and let us march out of these dull quar-
‘ ters, as Don Quixote and the faithful
‘ Sancho Panza, did out of theirs at La
‘ Mancha.”

‘ It was not without some strife in my
‘ thoughts that I gave my consent to this
‘ capricious scheme. But my friend, by
‘ telling me of a variety of specious in-
‘ stances of adventurous females bettering
‘ their conditions, at length prevailed ;
‘ and we, accordingly, applied to a rich
‘ broker in town ; who offered a hundred
‘ and ten pounds for my furniture, and
‘ forty-three for my friend’s.

‘ Though we were very sensible that
‘ the fellow meant to cheat us, we made
‘ few or no words, but accepted the money ;
‘ and began to make suitable preparations
‘ for our intended errantry.

“ You will be rather surprised, when I

‘ tell you, sir, that in a few hours after
‘ we had sold the goods, the diabolical
‘ Fribbler sent two porter’s carts, and a
‘ threatening letter to me; the contents
‘ of which were very short and plain:
‘ namely, That he had hired the two carts,
‘ for the purpose of carrying away the
‘ furniture; and that if I did not imme-
‘ diately quit possession of the house, he
‘ would proceed against me with the ut-
‘ most severity.

‘ I must confess, I rejoiced within my-
‘ self that I had been beforehand with
‘ him; not so much on account of the
‘ money, as at the idea that the news
‘ would gall him. My friend enjoyed
‘ herself very much on the occasion; and
‘ asked me, in a jocose manner, if I did
‘ not think she had the gift of divination.

‘ Having got every thing in order for
‘ our sally, I paid all my debts, and sent
‘ the poor widow a few pounds. As my
‘ servant-girl had been very affectionate

‘ and faithful to me on all emergencies,
‘ I gave her a couple of guineas, over
‘ and above her wages, for which she hard-
‘ ly knew how to express her thankfulness;
‘ and when she took leave of me, her
‘ grief was so violent, that it touched me
‘ deeply.

‘ Our plan was like that of Archer and
‘ Aimwell’s, in the Play; with this differ-
‘ ence only, that I was always to be mis-
‘ tress; the rather, because she was already
‘ married, and could not, for all her hus-
‘ band had so scandalously deserted her,
‘ go to the altar again, without flying in
‘ the face both of her religion and the
‘ laws of the land.

‘ We fixed upon Coventry for the place
‘ to begin our manœuvres in. Accord-
‘ ingly, we went thither; and took elegant
‘ lodgings in the genteelest part of the town.

‘ My mock servant trumpeted about,
‘ that I was a great heiress; and was so

‘ admirably dexterous in her management,
‘ that before we had been stationary a
‘ week, I received cards of invitation
‘ from several ladies of quality; and a
‘ number of gentlemen of rank and fortune,
‘ began to pay their court to me.

‘ He whom I singled out for my husband,
‘ was an amorous gentleman of
‘ sixty-four; who was reputed to be worth
‘ three thousand a year in landed property;
‘ and had withal a large fund of good-humour.

‘ I at first, out of prudence, kept him
‘ at a distance; but took care to shew him
‘ more favour and respect, than I did the
‘ rest of my suiters; who were his superiors
‘ in youth and gracefulness, though
‘ sadly beneath him in estate. My reserved
‘ and coyish demeanour, far from chilling
‘ him, made him the more eager. He
‘ pursued me with all the warmth of a
‘ passionate boy of eighteen; and swore,
‘ that if I rejected his addresses, he would

‘ die at my feet. I grew every day kinder and kinder to him ; and, at last, confessed, with all-becoming counterfeited confusion, that he had made a conquest of my heart.

‘ His behaviour on the occasion was ridiculously extravagant. He sneered upon his young rivals till they were quite chop-fallen ; and strutted about the town with as much triumph, as Alexander entered the gates of Babylon. Nay, so impatient was he to be united to me in the holy bands of matrimony, that he did not so much as inquire the extent of my fortune ; but immediately procured a licence, and desired me to prepare myself for the awful ceremony, which, he vowed, by my permission, should take place the following morning.

‘ I had regularly acquainted my friend, every night at bed-time, with my progressive prosperity ; and she always listened to me with great earnestness and

‘ pleasure : but when I informed her, that
‘ matters were so near an issue, and shew-
‘ ed her the licence and ring, as proofs,
‘ she received the news with far less zeal
‘ than I expected, indeed, I may say,
‘ with indifference. I conjectured, that
‘ there was a little envy at the bottom of
‘ it, but did not appear as if I noticed it.

‘ I was invited to drink tea and sup,
‘ that evening, at the house of one Mrs.
‘ Turner ; a lady who kept a deal of po-
‘ lite company, and possessed extraordi-
‘ nary qualifications. I had the sham-
‘ happiness to meet my intended there ;
‘ who smelt as strong of perfume as a
‘ hair-dresser’s shop, and was attired in
‘ the most fantastic, not to say inconsis-
‘ tent, stile imaginable.

‘ Immediately after tea, we all sat down
‘ to cards ; and when we had played a few
‘ games, Mr. Westly (for that was my
‘ *inamorato*’s name) was sent for home,
‘ on an affair of consequence.

‘ In two hours’ time, he returned ; not
‘ the happy Mr. Westly he went out, but
‘ rather like a panting tiger that has lost
‘ his prey.

‘ His wild appearance amazed the whole
‘ company, who rose from their seats in
‘ confusion : but what must have been my
‘ consternation, when he came up to me,
‘ and with a hideous grin, spit in my
‘ face, and cried out, “ Oh, thou hypo-
‘ critical devil !”

‘ The ladies and gentlemen stared one
‘ at another with the utmost wonder ;
‘ Westly threw himself distractedly into
‘ a chair ; and I, certain that he had, by
‘ some means or other, discovered my real
‘ character, ran out of the house as fast
‘ as my disorder would allow me, and
‘ hastened to my lodgings. I inquired,
‘ and looked up and down for my friend,
‘ but, to my great chagrin, could not
‘ find her.

‘ In this distress, I shut myself up in
‘ my dressing-room ; and was ruffling my-
‘ self with reflection, when I perceived a
‘ letter lying upon my toilet ; the super-
‘ scription of which I presently knew to
‘ be the hand-writing of my friend, I
‘ broke it open speedily ; but, good
‘ God ! what was my amazement,—what
‘ torments did I not endure, when I had
‘ perused it ! I can repeat it word for
‘ word : it was as follows—

“ My dear Heiress,

“ Having always looked upon
“ friendship to be merely titular, you
“ need not shew any silly airs, or wonder
“ at my double-dealing or treachery, call
“ it which of the two names you like. For
“ ’tis I, my sweet love, that have demo-
“ lished you with your dearly beloved Mr.
“ Westly. Do not waste your crocodile-
“ tears, child ! You will, haply, ensnare
“ some rich old hunks, or a grey-headed
“ peer of the Realm, yet. You have a
“ wide world to range in ; and with a lit-

“ the contrivance, you may play your
“ cards to good account. I have wheedled
“ a cool two thousand out of the old sim-
“ pleton. With this, I intend to lead a
“ harmless life in a remote part of the
“ kingdom. Well, adieu, my love! and
“ I wish thour mayest be more successful
“ in thy future amours, with all my heart.

“ I am, dear Heiress,

“ Thine, in all kinds of tribulation,

“ ALICE THORNTON.”

‘ To be betrayed, deserted, and ridi-
‘ culed by the person who has urged us to
‘ an undertaking, to whom we have been
‘ invariably kind, and in whose friendship
‘ we have placed the strongest reliance,
‘ is too much for human patience to bear.
‘ Neither the delinquent who hears him-
‘ self sentenced to the gallows, nor the
‘ feeling man who receives sudden infor-
‘ mation of the death of a near and ex-
‘ cellent relation, could feel a greater
‘ shock than I did, on reading that hated
‘ scrawl. I loved her—Oh, how tenderly

‘ I loved her ! But no matter : she is
‘ unworthy a single thought : for, as my
‘ favourite author, the great Doctor
‘ Young, finely observes,

‘ He that’s ungrateful has no fault but one,
‘ All other crimes may pass for virtues in him.

‘ As I had lived very expensively, in
‘ order to keep up appearances, my fi-
‘ nances were now reduced to little more
‘ than fifteen pounds ; and prudence,
‘ decency,—in short, every thing told me,
‘ that I must not stay any longer than I
‘ could help with the lady Godiva. I
‘ packed up all my clothes as quick as
‘ possible ; and without waiting for morn-
‘ ing, took coach for London ; at which
‘ place I arrived in safety the following
‘ evening.

‘ Great and manifold as the disasters
‘ that had befallen me, were, they had
‘ not cured me of my negligence in the
‘ least ; for I hired lodgings at the rate of

‘ two hundred a year, and lived so very
‘ extravagantly in other respects, that in
‘ nine or ten days time, I had emptied my
‘ purse of every farthing.

‘ As the cowardly libertine, in a street-
‘ riot, leaves his companions to bear the
‘ brunt, and returns to them when the
‘ danger is over: so came reason to me,
‘ when it could do me no manner of ser-
‘ vice.

‘ There was but one resource that seem-
‘ ed likely to keep me in a state of indo-
‘ lence, (for I was now too much of the
‘ fine lady to think of working for my
‘ bread) and that was—I blush, to own it,
‘ —the public prostitution of my body.

‘ I had no sooner resolved on this shame-
‘ ful project, than I put it in practice ;
‘ and was so greatly in favour with For-
‘ tune for several months, that I wanted
‘ for nothing, save an honest conscience.
‘ But she, ever hasty and inconstant, at

‘ last took umbrage at me, on some account or other, and left me in a most lamentable condition. From frequenting the Play-houses, Vauxhall, Ranelagh, the Opera, and other fashionable places of amusement, and bringing a glittering spark home with me every night, I dropped, all of a sudden, into the character of a common street-walker; and my exigency drove me to meannesses which my heart completely abhorred. Such, indeed, was my distress, that I was glad to take up with any paltry scoundrel who paid his suit to me.

‘ My abode was a cold dreary garret; and I generally passed two or three days in the week without tasting any kind of food. For I could pick up, in my rounds, but few gallants; and they were frequently mercenary fellows, who were perfect foreigners to compassion, and every humane sentiment; sometimes refusing, when they had obtained my favours, to make me the smallest dona-

tion ; and commonly adding kicks and blows to their illiberality.

Poverty pursued me in all its haggard forms : and when I was almost starved to death, I was introduced by three of my sisters in iniquity, whom I had made companions of, into a society of petty sharpers, swindlers, pick-pockets, house-breakers, highwaymen, and shop-lifters ; who entered me in their books with a deal of willingness ; and lessoned me in all their abominable stratagems, fraudulencies, and devices. But I was the most duncely scholar in the world : for when it came to my turn to pick a pocket, or perform any other knavish exploit, I trembled so violently, and made so many blunders, that my friends, who kept by me, to throw in their assistance, if need were, were always in pain for me ; and I was threatened, that if I did not conquer my awkwardness and timidity, I should no longer herd with them.

‘ They probably would have kept their
‘ word with me ; but a gentleman whom I
‘ met with one day in the Strand, took
‘ that trouble off their hands. I had secu-
‘ red his pocket-book, in the crowd, with-
‘ out being discovered ; but when I was
‘ drawing out his watch, in my usual con-
‘ fused and unskilful manner, he felt me,
‘ and seized fast hold of my arm.

‘ I was immediately carried, more dead
‘ than alive, before a magistrate ; who,
‘ after a short examination, committed me
‘ to Newgate ; whither I was sent in a
‘ post-chaise.

‘ Never was poor wretch so cast down
‘ as I was ! My fellow-prisoners were not
‘ of tempers to afford me consolation : on
‘ the contrary, they made a cruel jest of
‘ my sufferings ; never failing, when they
‘ heard me sigh, to mimic me ; and when-
‘ ever my anguish vented itself in tears,
‘ they would set up a loud yell of ridicule,
‘ cuff me upon the back, and drag me

‘ about the place by the hair. I made repeated complaints to the turn-key: but he, if he did not see any prospect of being rewarded, would have no dealings with pity; always answering me, in a surly manner, That I was a poor, sulky, pitiful jade; and that if I could not take a joke, I might whine, and be d—n’d.

‘ I was not permitted to reflect in the day-time; for these hardened miscreants were so extremely noisy, that it was impossible to do any thing. Good God, what an odious reptile is a shameless woman!

‘ Even those who were well assured, that a halter would be the reward of their unrighteousness, appeared in perfect cheer; and spent their time in singing lewd songs,* dancing with their petti-

* My polite readers will be apt to think, that Jenny spoke in somewhat too broad language here; but if they

‘ coats up, laughing extravagantly, utter-
‘ ing dreadful execrations, and all kinds
‘ of horrid blasphemy. I say, sir, it was
‘ not possible for me to entertain reflec-
‘ tion; while such a number of riotous and
‘ disorderly wretches were performing
‘ their revelries before me.

‘ But, however, during seven or eight
‘ hours in the night, when sleep had pass-
‘ ed through every cell and apartment in
‘ the prison, and given his palatable
‘ draughts to all those who had light
‘ hearts, I was at liberty to think on what
‘ I would, and on whom I would.

‘ You must pardon me, my dear Mr.
‘ Ranger, if I once more mention the first
‘ act of my incontinence ; I mean, my
‘ criminal attack upon you. The first,
‘ indeed; it was ; and would to heaven,

will be so good as to consider the way of life she had
pursued, I conceive they will not be against making
some little allowance for it.

‘ that death had made it the last: for, Oh !
‘ the pangs, the agonies I endured, whilst
‘ in gaol, on that very account, were
‘ grievous beyond description. My fever-
‘ ish mind suggested to me, that I had
‘ ruined you, for ever ruined you ! Thought
‘ after thought accused me : my trembling
‘ conscience knew its guilt, and shrunk.
‘ You were then, in a manner, a child,
‘ sir ; and I——but I cannot think of a
‘ name that is bad enough for me.

‘ My other crimes, ’tis true, sat heavy
‘ on my heart ; but that one,—I know not
‘ how it was,—that one outweighed them
‘ all.

‘ I had no rational creature to speak
‘ to ; no place wherein I could shelter
‘ myself from the rude insults and abuses
‘ of my fellow-prisoners : and, to add to
‘ my misery, I one day discovered that I
‘ was polluted.

‘ I lost no time, but made the governor

‘ acquainted with my situation; who, in a
‘ few days, sent the gaol-surgeon to me;
‘ but he, through inability, or carelessness,
‘ or, what is more probable, trying experiments upon me, made me ten times
‘ worse. The hateful disease began to
‘ shew itself in several parts of my body;
‘ and I was soon in the condition you now
‘ see me.

‘ The time of the sessions at length arrived. I was led, full of shame and
‘ distraction, to the Bar; but the gentleman
‘ whom I had robbed, either out of mercy
‘ or neglect, did not appear against me;
‘ so I was acquitted.

‘ I had no sooner my liberty, than I
‘ applied to an overseer for relief; but
‘ letting slip that I was born, and had
‘ parents, at a small village near Northampton, he, though to all appearance
‘ a good-natured man, shook his head,
‘ and told me, that seeing I did not belong
‘ to his parish, it was as good as his place

‘ was worth to do any thing for me of his
‘ own accord. However, he did me the
‘ kindness to take me before a Justice of
‘ the Peace, who granted me a vagrant’s
‘ pass.

‘ I came hither, five days ago, in a
‘ waggon; to the driver of which I am
‘ indebted for the use of this cellar.

‘ If his power were equal to his huma-
‘ nity, the distressed, while he lived, would
‘ not want a father. God Almighty only
‘ knows what a treasure of tenderness he
‘ inherits. Though his outward appear-
‘ ance is mean and ungraceful, his lan-
‘ guage wild and unpolished, yet has he
‘ a soul noble enough for the greatest king
‘ in the world. I cannot help giving a
‘ tear to his benevolence. The poor fel-
‘ low, when we were on our journey, be-
‘ ing melted with my sighs and disconsolate
‘ looks, modestly inquired into my cir-
‘ cumstances; the true state of which when
‘ he knew, the colour suddenly retreated.

‘ from his face ; he uttered a deep groan ;
‘ the tears started in his eyes, and rolled,
‘ in rapid torrents, down his cheeks : but
‘ not a word did he speak in reply ;—no ;
‘ his generous, his princely heart was full.
‘ He became sensible of his weakness, and
‘ to hinder me from noticing it, began to
‘ whistle, and sing, and call out to his
‘ horses. Oh, he is the best, the worthiest
‘ of men ! I cannot, indeed, say too
‘ much in his praise.

‘ Immediately after our arrival, the
‘ good creature conducted me to this cel-
‘ lar, (which, together with the shop
‘ above, belongs, as he informed me, to
‘ his master in London) and procured
‘ from one of his friends the furniture you
‘ now have before your eyes.

‘ His humanity stretched itself still far-
‘ ther. He drew from his pocket a piece
‘ of crumpled leather, and unfolding it,
‘ there dropped out four shillings ; three
‘ of which (will you believe it, Mr. Ran-

‘ger ?) he slid into my hand, without speaking a syllable. I was loath to take them from him, but he would have no denial; telling me, that if could make shift to live upon that, till he came to town again, which he said he should do in about a week’s time, he would try his utmost to reconcile me with my parents.

‘ That a vulgar and uncivilized person may be possessed of as fine and delicate feelings, and can perform as generous and heroic an action, as he whose mind is adorned with every human accomplishment, I have now the strongest reason to believe. I say now; for, to my shame be it spoken, I once took it into my head, that the commonalty, forgetting that I myself belonged to that order, had no more sensibility than the savagest brutes; and consequently looked upon them with the most absolute contempt.

‘ Having expended two of the shillings, and lost—carelessly lost—the other down

‘a chink in the floor, I this morning,
‘(impelled rather by the fear of being
‘snatched from the world before I had
‘time to repent me of my sins, than by
‘any real exigence) betook myself to the
‘streets, for the purpose of imploring
‘charity. I sat me down in the very
‘place where you found me; and I had
‘not been there many minutes, before I
‘was encompassed by a multitude of idle
‘and inhuman gazers, who gave me, in
‘alms, the weightiest scurrility, and the
‘most rigorous insults that cruelty could
‘supply them with.

‘Three tedious hours had I passed
‘amongst them, shivering with cold and
‘an empty stomach, when you, like a
‘kind and merciful angel, came to my
‘relief; and regardless of their sneers
‘and contumelious epithets, generously
‘carried me away.’

Having thus concluded her history, she
was going to press a very heavy purse of

commendations upon me ; but, as I have a little conscientious coxcomb within me, called Pride, who for the most part interferes in my business, and who will seldom permit me to receive favours that I consider myself unworthy of, I sharply withheld her, by striking into a different subject ; letting her know at the same time, by a look, that such offers were far from being agreeable to me.

THE END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

DEANS, PRINTERS MANCHESTER.











